



**HAVE
YOUR SAY
ON TAKING
BACK CONTROL
OF OUR
BUSES**



The public consultation is now open.

Take part at southyorkshire-ca.gov.uk/bus-reform



Scan
for survey

**SOUTH YORKSHIRE
SYMCA**
MAYORAL
COMBINED
AUTHORITY



South Yorkshire's current bus system



Buses are the most used mode of public transport in South Yorkshire.

Since 1986, bus services in the region have been deregulated. This means that private bus operators are responsible for setting routes, timetables, service standards, fares and tickets.

Bus services are mostly run commercially with private operators needing to make a profit. Bus companies' income comes from passenger fares, public subsidy and other sources, including advertising.

Some bus services in South Yorkshire need to be funded by us - South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority - such as evening and weekend services which do not make money but are vital to the communities they serve. We pay nearly £24m a year in subsidy for bus services.

There are currently 23 bus companies operating in the region and over 100 types of tickets available, which can be confusing for passengers. Over 60% of respondents to a survey said they were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with the reliability of bus services in South Yorkshire, with around 1 in 5 buses arriving late.

In recent years there have been significant cuts to the bus network. In 2007 the bus network in South Yorkshire operated 43 million miles but this has now more than halved.

Proposals for a new bus system for South Yorkshire

We do not believe the current system is working for passengers and we have the powers to change the way buses are run in South Yorkshire. We commissioned an assessment and independent review which looked at the different options available and that assessment concluded that a new model known as "Bus Franchising" is the best option to deliver our strategic objectives.

We agree that we should take back control of the buses and we want to proceed with the franchising option.

This model has been in place in London for many years, has been adopted in Greater Manchester and is being progressed in West Yorkshire and Merseyside, amongst other areas.

The government has set out a number of steps we must follow before we can introduce bus franchising. The next step is to carry out this 12-week public consultation on the proposed Bus Franchising option to see if there is support for the proposals.



Bus Franchising Consultation closes 15 January 2025
Take part at southyorkshire-ca.gov.uk/bus-reform

Bus Franchising – taking back control of our buses

We are proposing a new way of running buses in South Yorkshire called Bus Franchising.

Under this option, we would take control of how buses are run; owning the depots and the bus fleet. That means the buses will be back under public control.

This will give us the powers to decide:

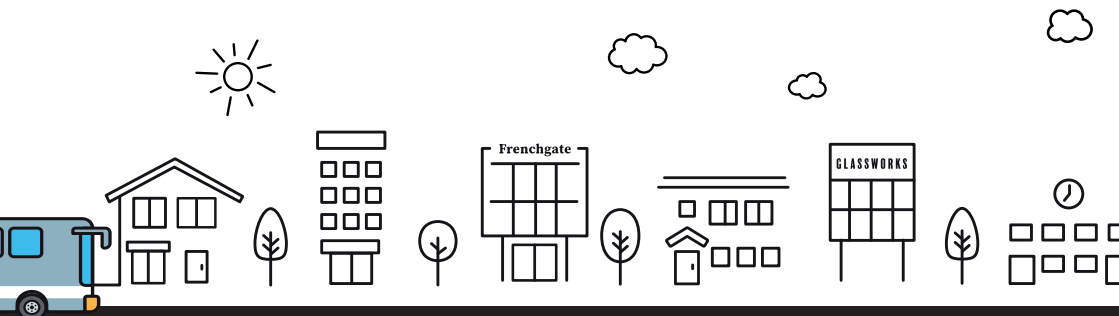
- what routes buses take
- what times they run
- the quality of the service
- how many ticket options are available
- what the fares will cost
- how to improve the reliability of the bus network
- how buses, trams and trains can connect with each other

As a public body, we can reinvest any profit back into improving the system for the public.

Equally, we would be responsible for any revenue shortfall should costs exceed the fares revenue.

Private operators will bid for contracts to run bus services and will be held to account for running a good quality, punctual and reliable service.

The consultation document provides more details on the proposals.



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How to have your say on taking back control of our buses

If you want to get involved and tell us your views about the proposals in the Bus Franchising Consultation, you can read the full consultation or a summary of it and respond to the short or long questionnaire. All the information is available here southyorkshire-ca.gov.uk/bus-reform

The deadline to respond to the consultation is 11.59pm 15 January 2025.

Who can take part?

The consultation is open to all members of the public and to businesses and organisations. You do not have to be located or live in South Yorkshire to take part.

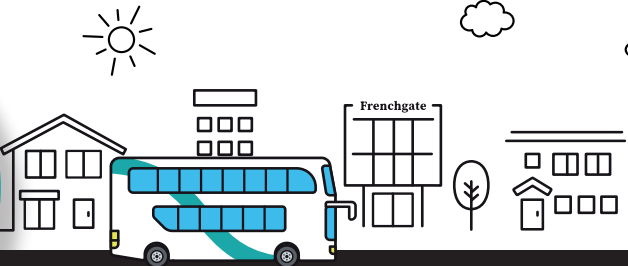
How you can take part

There is a short survey and a long questionnaire. You can respond to either of them, and you do not have to answer all the questions.

Public information drop-in events

There will be a series of drop-in events across South Yorkshire. Come and talk to us about the Bus Franchising Consultation and ask us any questions.

You can find out more about the events here southyorkshire-ca.gov.uk/bus-reform



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