

Have your say on bus reform in South Yorkshire

The South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (“the MCA”) is made up of the Mayor of South Yorkshire (“the Mayor”) and the four South Yorkshire local authorities of Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield. It is responsible for economic development, transport and regeneration in South Yorkshire.

The Mayor and the MCA recognise the importance of bus services to everyday life. A Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) was developed in 2021 for South Yorkshire and the MCA has set out its strategic objectives to improve the way bus services are run, including increasing the coverage and connectivity of the bus network, improving punctuality and reliability, ensuring value for money and making sure it is accessible for all those living in South Yorkshire.

Bus services have been in decline across South Yorkshire and the Mayor and the MCA want to see bus services improve over time. The MCA commissioned an assessment of the bus operating options against the strategic objectives and that assessment concluded that bus franchising is the model that would best deliver against those objectives. Under bus franchising, the MCA would take control of how buses are run; owning the depots and bus fleets. It will give them the power to decide bus routes, timetables, quality standards, ticket options, cost of fares, how to improve the reliability of the bus network, and how buses, trams and trains can connect with each other.

The MCA is therefore minded to implement the Proposed Bus Franchising Scheme set out in this consultation and now wishes to hear your views on that proposal.

The MCA would like to hear views on the proposals from people, organisations and businesses across the region.

The consultation runs from 09:00 on the 23 October 2024 to 15 January 2025 and all consultation responses must be received by 23:59 on 15 January 2025.

How to participate in the consultation:

There are two versions of the consultation questionnaire. You are welcome to fill out whichever questionnaire you want and you don't have to answer all of the questions.

This is the short version of the questionnaire, which contains the key questions that we want your views on and is suitable for members of the public and organisations. If this questionnaire is not applicable to you, a long version is available which contains additional detailed questions and is targeted towards individuals or organisations that have a significant interest and knowledge in how the bus market is run.

Please reply by sending this response form or letter to the following freepost address:
Freepost SOUTH YORKSHIRE BUS CONSULTATION

Alternatively, responses will also be accepted through the following channels:

- Complete and submit a questionnaire at:
www.southyorkshire-ca.gov.uk/bus-reform
- Email a completed questionnaire or your comments to:
southyorkshirebusconsultation@djsresearch.com

Please tick the box(es) as appropriate and write your responses clearly in black pen within the appropriate sections. If your response is too large to fit into the boxes, please attach additional evidence. If you do so, please make it clear which questions you are answering and number any additional pages you send. If you need any support to respond or have any questions, please email: southyorkshirebusconsultation@djsresearch.com.

Confidentiality and data protection

South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) has commissioned the independent research organisation DJS Research Ltd to receive and analyse responses to the consultation, and to prepare a report of the findings. SYMCA are the data controller. Any personal data in accordance with the Data Protection Act (DPA) 2018. Information you provide including personal information in response to the consultation will only be published in aggregate form or anonymised.

Further details of how SYMCA and DJS Research process your personal data during the consultation are available at:
www.southyorkshire-ca.gov.uk/bus-reform and www.djsresearch.co.uk/about/terms.

None of the questions are mandatory to complete, apart from Q1 – which asks whether you support or oppose the Proposed Franchising Scheme.

If you don't want to reply to a question, then please tick the 'Nothing to add' box.

Q01. Overall, to what extent do you support or oppose the introduction of the Proposed Franchising Scheme? Please tick one box only.

Strongly support

Support in part

Neither support nor oppose

Oppose in part

Strongly oppose

Don't know

Q02. Why do you say this? Please write in the box below.

Nothing to add

The Proposed Franchising Scheme would cover the whole area of South Yorkshire. This includes the four district authorities of Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham, and Sheffield. It would apply to all services across South Yorkshire (other than some services excepted from the Proposed Franchising Scheme and services to which the service permit scheme would apply).

Q03. Do you have any comments on this? Please write in the box below.

See Section 2.8 of the Executive Summary (or 3.1 of the Consultation Document) for information to support answering this question.

Nothing to add

The Strategic Case summarises the South Yorkshire bus network's day to day challenges and concludes that it is not performing as well as it should be.

Q04. Do you have any comments on this? Please write in the box below.

See Section 2.9.2 of the Executive Summary (or 4.2.4.2 of the Consultation Document) for information to support answering this question.

Nothing to add

The Strategic Case concludes that a Proposed Franchising Scheme is the best option for South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (when compared to EP and EP Plus) to deliver its aims and strategic objectives for buses in the region.

Q05. Do you have any comments on this? Please write in the box below.

See Section 2.9.2 of the Executive Summary (or 4.2 of the Consultation Document) for information to support answering this question.

Nothing to add

Q06. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the introduction of the Proposed Franchising Scheme will improve bus services in the South Yorkshire region? Please tick one box only.

Strongly support

Support in part

Neither support nor oppose

Oppose in part

Strongly oppose

Don't know

Q06b. Why do you say this? Please write in the box below.

Nothing to add

The Economic Case concludes that, of all the Bus Reform options considered, the Proposed Franchising Scheme would offer the best value for money for the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority.

Q07. Do you have any comments on this? Please write in the box below.

See Section 2.9.3 of the Executive Summary (or 4.3 of the Consultation Document) for information to support answering this question.

Nothing to add

The Commercial Case concludes that the Proposed Franchising Scheme reduces barriers to entry by providing fleet and depots to operators, thereby supporting increased competition for franchise contracts.

Q08. Do you have any comments on this? Please write in the box below.

See Section 2.9.4 of the Executive Summary (or 4.4 of the Consultation Document) for information to support answering this question.

Nothing to add

The Financial Case concludes that the Proposed Franchising Scheme would be affordable for the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority, but that there are further risks which would need to be carefully managed.

Q09. Do you have any comments on this? Please write in the box below.

See Section 2.9.5 of the Executive Summary (or 4.5 of the Consultation Document) for information to support answering this question.

Nothing to add

The Management Case concludes that the Proposed Franchising Scheme is deliverable and sets out how South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority would implement and manage it.

Q10. Do you have any comments on this? Please write in the box below.

See Section 2.9.6 of the Executive Summary (or 4.6 of the Consultation Document) for information to support answering this question.

Nothing to add

Q11. Do you have any further comments? Please write in the box below.

Nothing to add



Thank you for taking the time to provide your feedback.

Demographics

C01. How are you responding to this survey? Please tick one box only.

I am a member of the public, giving my views as an individual

I am responding on behalf of, or as a representative of, a business or organisation

C01. The following question is for those responding only on behalf of, or as a representative of a business or organisation. If this is not applicable, please skip this question.

Name (Please specify)

Role (Please specify)

Name of organisation or group (Please specify)

C01b. What category of organisation or group are you representing? Please tick all that apply.

Academic (includes universities and other academic institutions)

Action group

Elected representative (includes MPs and local councillors)

Environment, heritage, amenity or community group (includes environmental groups, schools, church groups, residents' associations, recreation groups and other community interest organisations)

Local Government (includes county councils, district councils, parish and town councils and local partnerships)

Other representative group (includes chambers of commerce, trade unions, political parties and professional bodies)

Other transport group (includes passenger representative groups, for example)

Statutory agency

Transport, infrastructure or utility organisation (includes transport bodies, transport providers, infrastructure providers and utility companies)

Professional body

Bus operator

Charity / voluntary sector group

Other (Please specify) _____

The following questions are optional and for individuals responding only. If you choose to answer these questions you will not be identified by the information provided. All information will be handled and dealt with in line with the Data Protection Act 2018, as detailed in our privacy notice

C02. Which of the following options best describes how you think of yourself? Please tick one box only.

 Female Male Non-binary

I describe my gender in another way (Please specify)

 Prefer not to say

C03. How would you describe your sexuality? Please tick one box only.

 Bisexual Gay man Gay woman or lesbian Heterosexual or straight

Other sexual orientation (Please specify)

 Prefer not to say

C04. How old are you? Please write in the box below.

Prefer not to say

C05. Which of the following local authority areas do you live in? Please tick one box only.

Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council

City of Doncaster Council

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

Sheffield City Council

Outside of South Yorkshire (please specify)

Prefer not to say

C06. What is your ethnic group? Please tick one box only to best describe your ethnic group or background.

<input type="checkbox"/> Asian or Asian British – Indian	<input type="checkbox"/> Asian or Asian British – Pakistani
<input type="checkbox"/> Asian or Asian British – Bangladeshi	<input type="checkbox"/> Asian or Asian British – Kashmiri
<input type="checkbox"/> Asian or Asian British – Chinese	
<input type="checkbox"/> Asian or Asian British – Any other Asian background	
<input type="checkbox"/> Black or Black British – Caribbean	<input type="checkbox"/> Black or Black British – African
<input type="checkbox"/> Black or Black British – Any other Black background	
<input type="checkbox"/> Mixed – White and Black Caribbean	<input type="checkbox"/> Mixed – White and Black African
<input type="checkbox"/> Mixed – White and Asian	<input type="checkbox"/> Mixed – Any other mixed background
<input type="checkbox"/> White – British /English/Welsh/ Scottish/ Northern Irish	
<input type="checkbox"/> White – Irish	<input type="checkbox"/> White – Gypsy or Irish Traveller
<input type="checkbox"/> White – Eastern European	<input type="checkbox"/> White – Central European
<input type="checkbox"/> White – Any other White Background	<input type="checkbox"/> Other ethnic group – Arab
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please specify) _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say	

C07. Do you consider yourself to have a disability? Please tick all that apply.

No

Yes – learning disability

Yes – mental ill health

Yes – mobility disability

Yes – sensory disability

Yes – other disability (please specify)

Prefer not to say

Thank you for participating in the consultation.
Please reply by sending this response form or
letter to the following freepost address:
Freepost SOUTH YORKSHIRE BUS CONSULTATION



To read DJS Research's Privacy Policy, please visit:
www.djsresearch.co.uk/dataprotection