

Competition Guidelines



Imagine an Excellent Bus Service for Leeds



Leeds Civic Trust is hosting a competition to **Imagine an Excellent Bus Service for Leeds**.

The competition is to encourage individuals and organisations to put forward their ideas about how the bus services in Leeds can be improved and to imagine what public transport could look like in the future.

We want people to think beyond the constraints which shape Leeds bus services today – tight budgets, often expensive and confusing fares, congestion and delays, lack of integration between services etc. We want you to suggest how better public transport can improve the quality of people's daily lives.

All ideas are welcome. Your proposals can be specific to your neighbourhood or city wide. They can be short term fixes or longer-term aspirations.

Improving bus services could include any or all the following elements – and more!

- the buses themselves – what type of vehicles e.g. electric, biogas, fully accessible
- where they go and how often they run
- bus priorities on the roads they run on
- how convenient and attractive pedestrian routes to bus stops are
- safety both on and off the bus
- bus stop facilities
- the quality of bus stations and interchanges
- information, - real time, phone app, phone queries, traditional paper timetables etc.
- branding and civic identity
- who decides what sort of service should be provided
- what the fares are going to be

We encourage proposals from everyone and anyone, from regular bus users and also from those who rarely use the buses in Leeds because currently they don't meet their needs.

Entries can be from individuals, groups, or community or professional organisations.

We would welcome entries from professional transport planners, designers, artists, architects, engineers and planners - and especially from students and young people.

Entries can be in any form you choose – written description, photos, maps, plans, sketches, videos audio or any combination of these.

Themes for entries could include :

- a description of what an excellent bus service in Leeds may look like to you

- examples of really good bus services you have used. This may be abroad on holiday, in London or even nearer home such as the electric buses in Harrogate
- how your regular bus journey could be improved
- what would be needed to make the bus an attractive option for you
- how buses could be speeded up on busy roads
- a series of images showing “before and after” shots of how you think the interiors of buses could be improved
- annotated maps showing how the existing routes can be planned better
- sketches/description of how new technologies can make buses more accessible
- or the really big one - what would you put in the Bus Improvement Plan West Yorkshire Metro must submit to the government this Autumn?

What’s in it for me?

A judging panel (to be announced soon) will award prizes for the most interesting entries.

We are encouraging entries from a wide spectrum of people and organisations so the judges will assess what is submitted to the competition before deciding on how to award the total prize fund of £2,000.

Need some inspiration?

Our dedicated website includes a wealth of background information about the buses in Leeds. Keep an eye out on our website www.ExcellentBusesLeeds.org.uk and www.leedscivictrust.org.uk as we’ll be hosting a series of webinars around this topic soon.

We hosted a similar competition last year looking at how the Eastside area of Leeds could be improved – take a look at the entries and winners at [Liveable Leeds \(liveable-leeds.org.uk\)](http://Liveable Leeds (liveable-leeds.org.uk)).

How do I enter?

To enter your idea to the competition, upload your entry at www.excellentbusesleeds.org.uk before 5p.m. on Monday 6th September 2021.

If you are interested in making a submission it would be helpful if you could let us know in advance by emailing office@leedscivictrust.org.uk stating the format of your submission, who is involved and the contact details.

What happens after the deadline?

The judges will convene to assess the entries and the winners will be contacted in the following weeks.

This competition is an integral aspect of the **Imagine an Excellent Bus Service in Leeds** project and each submission will contribute towards creating the final report – which will include a list of recommendations for the Metro Mayor Tracy Brabin, Leeds City Council and West Yorkshire Combined Authority.

We will continue to host our webinar series to discuss the issues surrounding this project, along with workshops and meetings in order to influence local and national government policies on the ideas put forward in this competition.

Further information and advice:

We are very happy to discuss the competition with potential entrants. Please send us an email in the first instance to office@leedscivictrust.org.uk with the subject 'Imagine Excellent Buses Competition'.

Good luck!