

EP Forum Members – Proposed Changes

Presented by

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EP Forum background

The main purpose of the EP Forum is to be the “conscience of the travelling public of South Yorkshire”, supporting the EP Board in decisions.

- The first key task of the Forum is to develop the Bus Promise (or Customer Charter)
- The EP Forum met for the first time on 28 September 2022 and has met twice since.
- To date, the meetings have focussed on progressively developing the Bus Promise, through interactive working groups harnessing Forum member views.
- The EP Board approved membership representation from a variety of public groups, ranging from user groups, non bus users, business and universities. It was not possible to identify nominated individuals for each of these organisations and representation continues to evolve.

Membership and attendance

Clear gaps emerged in representation in certain areas, where names could not be identified against nominated organisations and attendance levels in practice.

- The EP Forum was to comprise 28 attendees (including the Chair, three operators and one senior SYMCA officer).
- Named representatives for 7 organisations could not be identified (Trade union/health sector, schools, bus user representatives for all four districts by district, patient carers, car users, pensioners).
- There has been no or limited attendance from the business sector, community officers, neighbouring authorities and cyclists, suppressing attendance on the day from public representatives by a further 5.
- This, combined with occasional unavailability of other public representatives, has left the Forum light on public representatives with around 7 to 10 in attendance.
- Although the meeting outputs have been very valuable, better public representation would be beneficial, in particular with representation from:
 - Bus user representatives for the missing districts of Rotherham, Sheffield, Doncaster
 - Health sector
 - Trade union
 - Pensioners

Proposed additional attendees

In the ongoing efforts to identify individuals to join, the Better Bus Group helpfully put forward suggestions and names to fill the gaps.

We ask the EP Board to consider endorsement of these changes.

If endorsed, this will be followed up with an updated EP Forum ToR and the additional nominees will be invited to the EP Forum of 28 February 2023.

- To ensure bus **user representatives from all districts**, it is proposed to:
 - Add Doncaster representative for Better Buses
 - Add Rotherham representative for Better Buses
 - Add Sheffield representative for Better Buses
 - Change the current general representative for Better Buses to represent Barnsley
- Invite a contact for Medact to be our **health sector** representative
- Invite a contact for Unite Community South Yorkshire to be our **Trade Union** representative

Thank you

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