

UK Local Authority Perspective on Trolleybus Future

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www.ngtmetro.com

Leeds Overview

- Leeds, located in West Yorkshire (northern England)
- Population of over 750,000
- Important financial and business centre outside London.
- Key Transport Issues:
 - Road network is operating at/close to practical capacity
 - Growth in rail commuting - overcrowding
 - Declining bus use



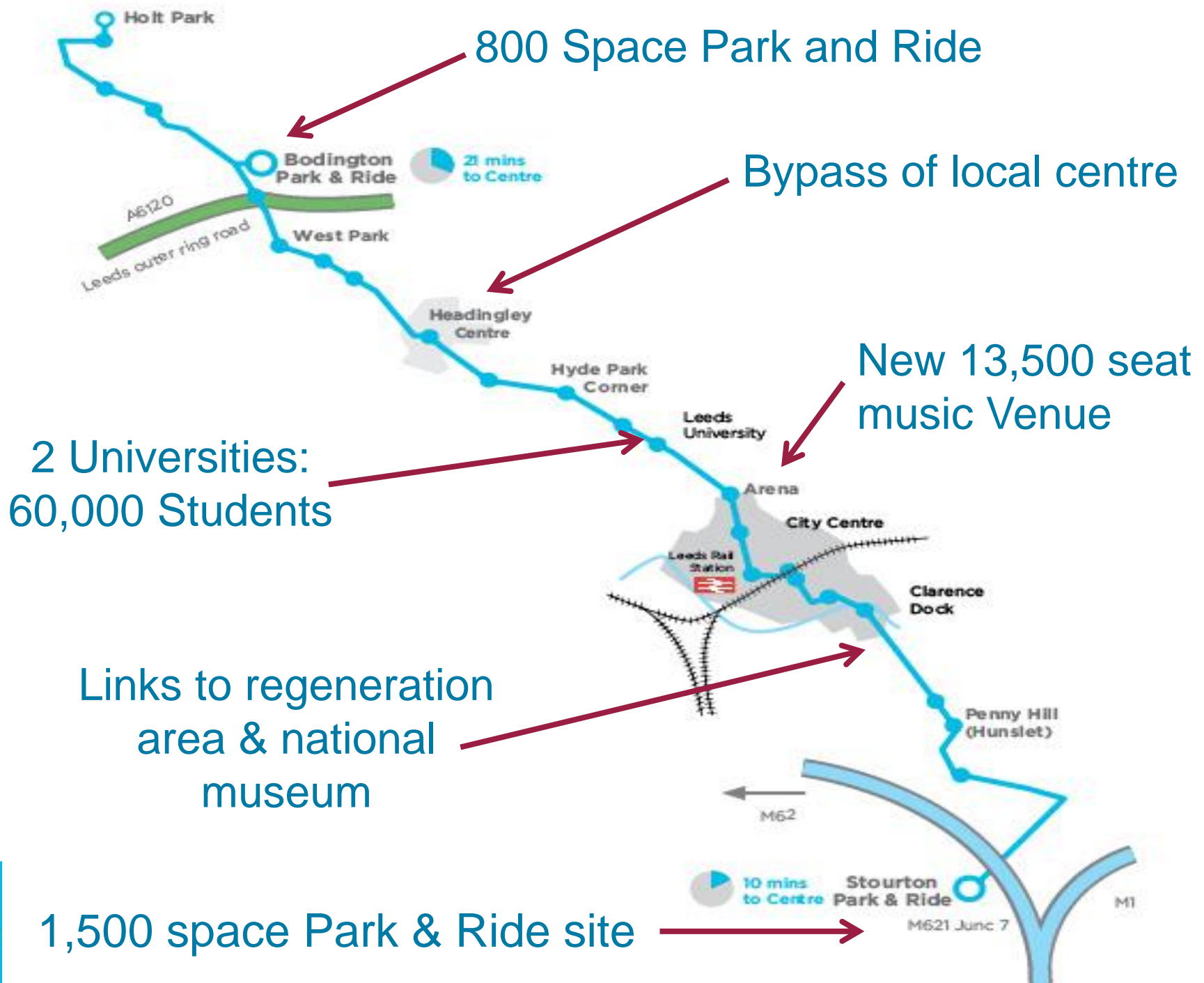
Leeds Background

- Long history of developing mass transit proposals in Leeds
- Tram system cancelled by UK Government in 2005
 - Affordability/value for money
- Leeds asked to develop bus based system
 - A ‘top of the range’ system
 - To be a showcase for other UK cities
 - To deliver 90% of the benefits of a tram, at 50% of the cost’



New Generation Transport Trolleybus

- 14.3km Trolleybus network
- Known as NGT (**N**ew **G**eneration **T**ransport)
- Aim is for faster and more reliable journeys, and an improved environment
- System based approach – vehicle, infrastructure, Park and Ride, marketing etc.
 - To deliver a ‘Step Change’ in public transport
- Total cost of €288m
 - €199m from Central Government
 - €89m from local sources



800 Space Park and Ride

Bypass of local centre

New 13,500 seat music Venue

2 Universities:
60,000 Students

Links to regeneration
area & national
museum

1,500 space Park & Ride site

10 mins to Centre

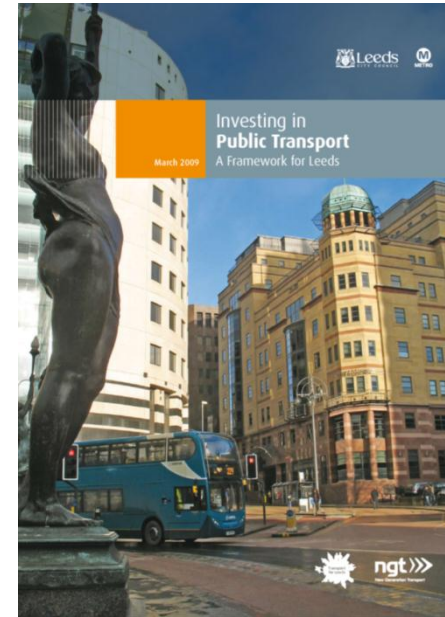
21 mins to Centre

M621 June 7

M1

Why Trolleybus for Leeds

- To meet regional transport objectives
 - Support economic activity and growth
 - Develop a low carbon transport system
 - Enhance quality of life
- Comprehensive option generation process in 2007
 - Existing transport issues and future predictions
 - Different transport solutions for different corridors
- Fact finding visits for Politicians to EU systems



Benefits of Trolleybus for Leeds

- Local Environmental benefits
 - Air quality Noise levels
- Potential for using sustainable electricity in the future
- ‘Permanence’ - fixed infrastructure
 - Modal shift
- Significant economic benefits
 - Approximately 4,000 permanent new jobs
 - Up to 1,000 jobs in construction process
 - €184m annual economic boost
- Potential uplift in property prices
 - Leeds cited in national media as a good location to invest
 - Discussions with local Real Estate Agents

Key Challenges

- Communicating the benefits
 - Seen by some as ‘old technology’
 - No existing UK Trolleybus
 - Calls for further consideration of alternatives (e.g. hybrid buses)
 - Relationship with local media
- Ensuring the benefits are not reduced
 - Local pressure to change designs
 - But need to maintain journey time & reliability benefits



Key Challenges (2)

- Integration
 - Deregulated bus market in Leeds
 - No control over wider local bus network
- Complicated UK Government approval process
 - Lengthy process to obtain legal powers
 - 8 week Public Inquiry
 - Central Government approvals at key stages
- Long Term project
 - Construction - 2016/7
 - Operation - 2019/20
 - Political support needed over many years

Next Steps

- Need to obtain legal powers and further government funding approvals
- Potential to extend NGT network in Leeds/wider region
 - Other routes previously considered
- Continue to monitor technology developments
 - Potential for off-wire sections in the future?
- Other UK cities closely watching Leeds
 - Trolleybus could offer value for money option





Thank You

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