



## Participant Information Sheet

### The title of the research project

Exploring Your Experiences with Online Community Platforms

### Invitation paragraph

The research is looking for participants to investigate how information and services of online community platforms influence engagement motivation and ability. You are invited to participate in the research project. Before you decide, it is essential to understand why the research is being conducted and what it entails. Please take the time to read the following information carefully. Please ask us if anything is unclear or if you require further information.

The purpose of the survey is to gain a deep understanding of your experiences with online governance activities and web services. Before starting the survey, please visit the website on the laptop and contribute your issues related to urban streets from your topics of interest (cycling, vehicles, walking, and bus stops), as well as share your opinions on governance. The questionnaire consists of three parts: activities, website, and interface. This survey is entirely anonymous. Please read the [Research Participant Privacy Notice](#).

### What is the purpose of the project?

This survey is to evaluate and validate that changes based on research hypotheses can help increase motivation to participate, empower participation, and further improve the quality of participation.

### Why have I been chosen?

You may be a university student, staff or community resident. You would be a stakeholder in a better environment and a more well-being life through the project.

### Do I have to take part?

It is up to you to decide whether to take part. If you do decide to take part you will be given this information sheet to keep and be asked to sign a consent form. All participant data will be completely anonymous. After collecting the digital questionnaire, the order will be randomised. No



personal information could be found. If participants do decide to take part they will be asked to sign a consent form.

**What do I have to do? / What will happen to me if I take part?**

You would have to review a website and then fill out a survey **questionnaire** based on your experience, which takes approximately 20 minutes. Before starting the survey, you will be asked to visit a website on a laptop and contribute your views relating to urban street use (including topics such as cycling, vehicles, walking, and bus stops), as well as share your opinions on governance. The website will show a map. Please click on the purple 'Have your say' button and drop a pin on the map to share issues in your area. There are further questions on the website to help you feedback further views. Once you've finished using the website, you will be asked to fill out the research survey. This survey consists of three parts: activities, website, and interface, to gather information about your experience using the website.

**What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?**

We do not anticipate any disadvantages or risks arising from your taking part in this research.

**What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

We cannot promise that the study will directly benefit you, but the information gathered will inform policy and measure development, contributing to the evidence base on civic engagement platform practice and enabling more responsible organisations and forms that can benefit everyone.

**Use, dissemination and storage of research data**

Research will be used for analysis, report writing, academic journal articles and conference presentations. Any data used in the dissemination process will be fully anonymised so that you cannot be identified. The data will be stored on OneDrive and researchers' private laptops. Data will be retained for at least 5 years, after which it will be disposed of securely.

**What will happen to my personal information?**

All information that is collected about you during this research will be kept strictly confidential, with all procedures for handling, processing, storage and destruction of data securely and anonymously.



All participant data will be anonymous. Data will only be shared to members of the research team and will only be used for research on this project.

**What will happen to the results of the research project?**

All the results and data will not affect your private life in any way, it only relates to your perceptions, opinions and attitudes towards the civic engagement platform. Results from this research will be used for several research outputs, including the PhD thesis, academic conferences and papers, and private research websites. If you would like access to any written materials that result from this research, please select this box on the consent form. You will not be identified in any report/publication. The University may keep the data and use it in future studies. If we do this, it will only be in a completely anonymised form.

**Who is organising/ funding the research?**

This research is being conducted by researchers from the University of Leeds. The University of Leeds retains control over methodology, analysis and publication.

**Contact for further information**

For any further information or to ask questions or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact the research team:

- Jinpeng Xu, [sdjx@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:sdjx@leeds.ac.uk)

As a participant, you will keep both a copy of this participant information sheet and a signed copy of the consent form.

**Thanks for taking your time to read through the information.**