

COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY 25TH MAY 2026

Question submitted by Councillor E. O'Donovan

I will ask the Mayor for an update on the actions and progress of the Transport Sub-Group in relation to the ongoing delays to the BusConnects programme in Limerick. To ask specifically:

- Whether the Minister for Transport and NTA has attended, or has been invited to attend, any meeting of the Transport Sub-Group to discuss the delays and future delivery timelines for BusConnects in Limerick; and
- Whether any progress has been made in relation to my request, raised at the September 2025 meeting of Limerick City and County Council, for Bus Route No. 1 to service the Mulcair Road area.

Reply:

BusConnects is part of the agreed work programme of the Limerick Project Ireland 2040 Transport Sub-Group, which meets quarterly and has had BusConnects as a substantive agenda item.

The NTA is a member of the Sub-Group, and at the meeting of 12 February 2026, gave a direct update on BusConnects, confirming no change to the programme since the previous meeting. They advised that some design work would begin earlier than planned, and that, due to a lack of funding, no new bus services could be delivered in Limerick in 2026, with new services possible in 2027 subject to funding. Delays and delivery timelines have therefore been discussed directly with the NTA at Sub-Group level.

The Minister for Transport is not a member of the Sub-Group and has not attended a meeting to date, but has accepted an invite to attend the meeting in December.

The main cause of delay is funding: the November 2025 NDP Sectoral Investment Plan for Transport identified €500m–€1bn for the region but no specific funding for BusConnects infrastructure in Limerick. As a result, bus services are being delivered on a phased basis and the dedicated bus corridor infrastructure is currently delayed to 2030. In relation to Bus Route No. 1, the BusConnects Service Planning Section of the National Transport Authority (NTA) has undertaken a high-level review of the provision of Bus Route 1 services directly to the Mulcair Road area.



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Arising from this assessment, it has been determined that further detailed modelling is required. This modelling will examine both local service provision and the potential impacts on the wider network redesign.

The NTA Design Team will progress this additional analysis and is expected to provide an update on the completion of the initial modelling stages in the coming weeks.

John Moran
Mayor of Limerick