



Letterkenny

Town Bus Service Consultation



Why are we contacting you today?

The 2022 Census shows **Letterkenny has 22,549 residents.**

The town is a Regional Centre in terms of national and regional spatial planning policy. The town hosts a wide range of services, including:

- 370-bed University Hospital,
- Letterkenny campus of ATU,
- Several employment centres and a myriad of retail, government services and leisure activities.

These services all generate a demand for travel.

Today, about 4 in 5 of trips to work or education start and finish within the town, and occur regularly, meaning they are 'local and commuter' in nature. The majority of this travel is by car, which is a concern.

By 2040, Letterkenny is predicted to **increase its population by 22%** and the **number of jobs located within its boundaries by 55%**. If dependence on the car continues, the additional car traffic that this growth will generate will cause problems to people's ability to access services and to the future development of the town itself.

While cycling and walking are the most sustainable alternatives to the car, distance, topography and age and other personal circumstances mean that these options do not suit everyone.

There is now an opportunity to provide a real alternative - an urban style bus service in Letterkenny.

The NTA has provided urban bus networks in towns of similar size and diversity to Letterkenny elsewhere in the country, and is planning similar networks in Portlaoise, Ennis and Mullingar.

The networks already in operation have been positively received and usage is growing week by week.

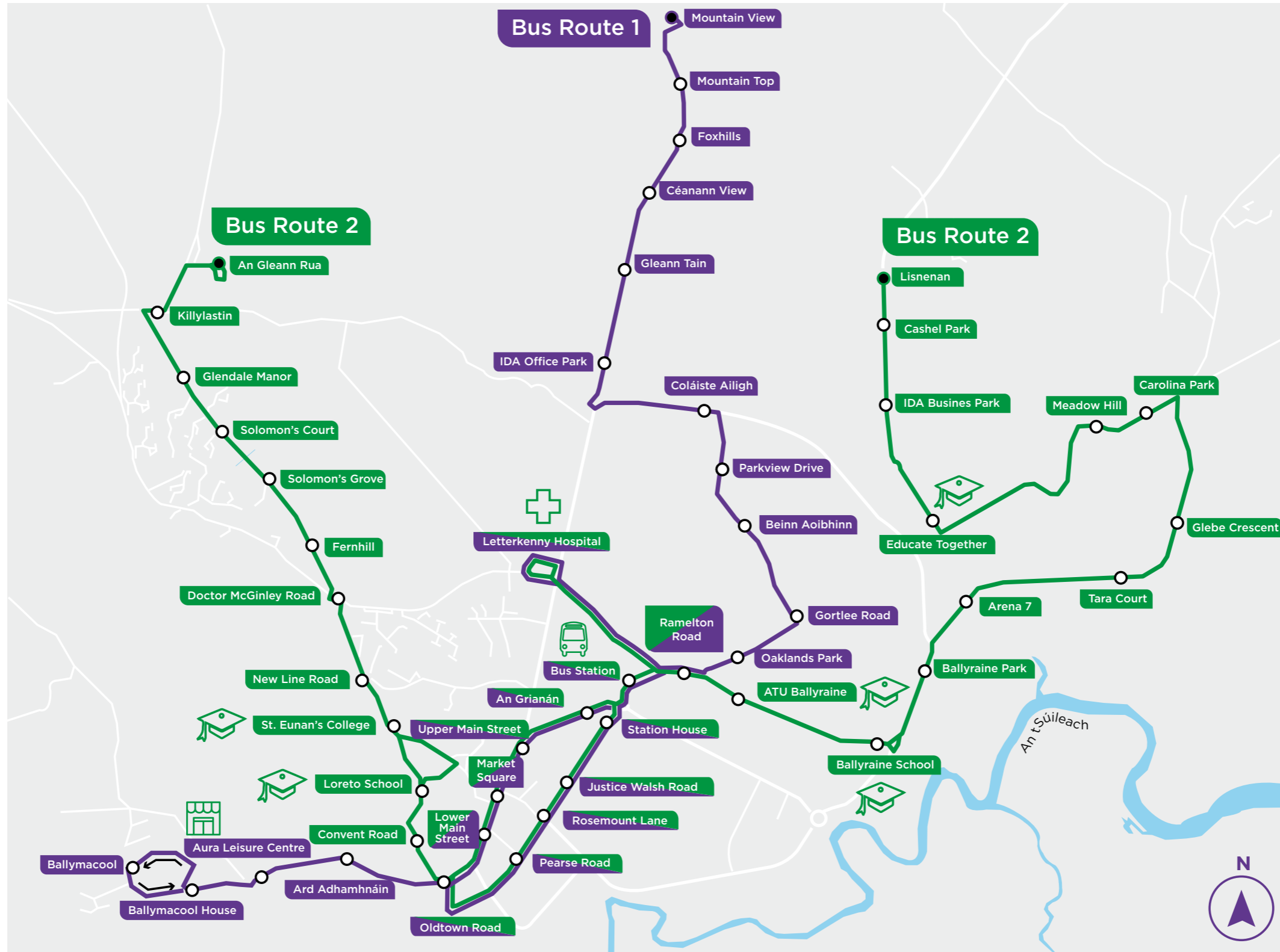
The table below shows how well a sample of these town bus networks are performing, while also showing that changing travel behaviour takes years.

Town	Population (2022 CSO)	Date of introduction of town bus service	Patronage / week (March 2024)
Athlone	22,869	17 February 2017	11,000+
Kilkenny City	27,184	18 December 2019	7,000+
Carlow Town	27,351	31 July 2023	7,000+
Clonmel	18,369	11 December 2023	3,000+

What the NTA plans to do.

The NTA proposes to invest in Letterkenny by securing provision for a network of local urban-style bus services supported by the State. These bus services will provide an attractive, convenient, cost-effective and viable alternative to the car for local transport needs.

Map 1 shows the proposed 2-route network.



- Route 1 - Mountain View via Towncentre & Letterkenny University Hospital to Ballymacool and return
- Route 2 - Lisnenan via Towncentre & Letterkenny University Hospital to An Gleann Rua and return

Once the proposed services are in place, the goal is a trip to the town Centre will take about **15-20 minutes**, and that approximately 62% of the population of the town will live within **400m walk of a bus stop**.

Both routes will operate on a common section through town, doubling the flow of buses on that section.

Buses will operate on both routes at **half-hourly intervals**, starting at **approx. 6 AM**, and finishing with last departures from the town Centre in each direction at **11 - 11:30 PM**, Monday – Saturday.

A similar core service will operate on Sundays and Public Holidays but will start later in the morning and may finish earlier in the evening, depending on the need for connectivity with interurban and regional bus services.

Standard flat **town fares** will apply:

- €2.00 for adults paying cash and €1.50 when using a TFI Leap card.
- Passengers under 26 years of age and children will pay half price.
- Free Travel Passes will be honoured.

Anyone changing route to complete a journey across town can interchange buses free within 90 minutes of taking the first one.

The buses used will be clean, modern, low emission, low floor wheelchair-accessible vehicles.

New fully accessible bus stops will be provided, each showing diagrammatic timetables and other useful information on how to use the service to intending passengers. Shelters will follow when planning permissions for each location are obtained.

When will this happen?

The NTA is working with Donegal County Council to introduce the town network by the end of 2025.

What you can do now is....

- Think about our proposal – let us know whether you support it!
- Tell us your views – on route alignments, places served, location of new bus stops, times of proposed operation, etc.

Tell us what you think either on-line at:

<https://consult.nationaltransport.ie/>

or in person at our consultation session in on:

17th July, Radisson Hotel, Paddy Harte Road in Letterkenny