

Monday January 7th, 2008

Luas redeployment buses badly needed in Dublin North - Kennedy
North Dublin Deputy urges Dublin Bus reshuffle to focus on Northside commuters & for immediate rethink of Bus Eireann Ikea Express

FIANNA FAIL'S Dublin North TD Michael Kennedy has called on Dublin Bus to use the proposed redeployment of Dublin Buses around the city as an opportunity to inject some much-needed new bus services into North Dublin.

Deputy Kennedy said: "There is a proposal to re-deploy buses - from areas of the city which have benefited from the Luas and where there has been a decrease in bus passenger numbers - and reallocate them to areas of the city which are not so well served, and this definitely includes Dublin North."

"I am calling on the Government to move some of these reallocated routes to North County Dublin and for future capital funding into fleet expansion to be focussed on the Fingal area."

"Dublin North is the fastest growing region in Ireland and I believe the area will benefit from this forward planning, as the population continues to explode."

"I am also calling on Bus Eireann to urgently reconsider its new bus routes from Dublin to Ikea in Belfast and focus more on providing additional services in North Dublin."

Deputy Kennedy added: "Of course I welcome the launch of Ikea on the island of Ireland however, I am unsure if our national bus service should be supplying buses to the store in Belfast."

"At the moment, Bus Eireann proposes to operate two separate services from Leinster area; one direct from Dublin seven days a week, and then another from Drogheda through Dundalk at weekends. Initial reports from Bus Eireann have indicated that the take up of many of the services is very poor."

"Why not combine the two services, with the Dublin service stopping in Drogheda and Dundalk en route to the Belfast Ikea store, freeing up at least one bus and driver for Bus Eireann's more established services. It makes no sense to use the same road - the M1 - to operate two separate services to the same place."

"At a time when there is more demand than ever on public transport, I would urge Bus Eireann to re-examine this service whilst keeping in mind the needs of commuters in North Dublin."

"I would also encourage the Bus Eireann to explore the idea of allowing elderly people to use their travel passes on the new route to Ikea," concluded Deputy Michael Kennedy.