



**Consideration of application for the introduction of
Bus Éireann's Leap card fares in Greater Cork Area – red
zone and green zone**

Determination No. 2 – 2014

March 2014

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1. Introduction

The National Transport Authority (the Authority) entered into a Public Service Contract with Bus Éireann in December 2009 for the provision of passenger and ancillary services. The services Bus Éireann provides under this contract are not commercial and attract a public service obligation payment in line with EU regulation 1370/07. Bus Éireann is 100% owned by Córas Iompair Éireann (CIÉ) and CIÉ is a statutory body with ownership vested in the Minister for Transport, Tourism & Sport.

As part of a process of improving public transport service quality the Authority has been developing a number of initiatives such as the real time information at bus stops, the Authority's National Journey Planner, investment in the bus and rail fleet, station improvements, the reconfiguration of city bus services and the Leap card. The Leap card has already been rolled out on a number of bus and rail operators and 2013 saw the gradual introduction of the Leap card on Bus Éireann services in the eastern part of the country. The Leap card was introduced on Bus Éireann services in the Cork city red zone or the old city network zone at the end of February as part of the roll out of Leap in the Greater Cork Area. This determination will see the introduction of Leapcard in the green zone which extends from the red zone to towns 15 to 20 km outside Cork. Leap card can also be used for adult single fares on all stage carriage routes in the Greater Cork Area to avail of Leapcard discount.

There are a number of benefits to using the Leap card for both the customer and the operator and these include:

- Increased overall passenger journeys arising from the convenience of using the Leap card
- No need for the passengers to carry coins
- Time savings resulting from faster vehicle boarding
- Improved transferring to other forms of public transport that use Leap
- Enhanced opportunities to reduce fraudulent travel
- Greater use of public transport by tourists and visitors

2. Proposal by Operator

Bus Éireann has proposed the phased introduction of Leap card services in the Greater Cork Area. Similar to what is already introduced in the Eastern Region; Bus Éireann will introduce a number of Leap card zones emanating out from Cork City.

The first phase of this roll out saw the Leap card introduced in the Red Zone in Cork city covering the old city network zone at the end of February last. This current request is seeking approval for Bus Éireann proposed fares for the green zone which extends from the red zone to towns about 15 to 20 km outside Cork and replacing monthly and annual paper tickets with Leapcard products. The following table lists the routes which are covered by the red zone and green zone.

Table 1.- Cork City bus routes included in the Leap card Red and Green Zones

<u>Route</u>	<u>Comment</u>
201	All within the Red Zone
202	All within the Red Zone
203	All within the Red Zone
205	All within the Red Zone
206	All within the Red Zone
207	All within the Red Zone
207A	All within the Red Zone
208	All within the Red Zone
209	All within the Red Zone
209A	All within the Red Zone
214	All within the Red Zone
215	Red and Green Zone
216	All within the Red Zone
219	All within the Red Zone
221	Red and Green Zone
222	Green Zone
223	Green Zone
226	Red and Green Zone
226A	Red and Green Zone
232	Green Zone
260*	Green Zone to Carrigtwohill
261*	Green Zone to Carrigtwohill

*Routes 260 and 261 also service areas which extend beyond the green zone.

The request from Bus Éireann involves the rollout of a number of products and functionality as phase two of the Greater Cork Area Leapcard project. The products are as outlined below.

1. A 16% cash / Leap fare differential on adult single fares on all public service obligation funded routes in the Greater Cork Area from route 201 to route 261 inclusive.
2. A new adult green zone 1-day rolling product for €8.00.
3. A new adult green zone 7-day rolling product for €35.00.
4. A Leapcard red zone monthly product replacing the current city paper version, price remains at €74.00.
5. A Leapcard red zone monthly tax saver product replacing the current city paper version, price remains at €74.00.
6. A Leapcard red zone annual tax saver product replacing the current city paper version, price remains at €814.00.
7. A Leapcard green zone monthly product replacing the current city & suburban paper version, price remains at €92.00.
8. A Leapcard green zone monthly tax saver product replacing the current city & suburban paper version, price remains at €92.00.
9. A Leapcard green zone annual tax saver product replacing the current city & suburban paper version, price remains at €1,012.00.

Carrigtwohill and Knockraha which are currently outside the green zone will now be included in the green zone resulting in a reduction in the cost of the current monthly and annual tickets.

Glanmire which is served by Route 221, a suburban route which has a staged fare scale, will be covered by the red zone products as outlined above and in the determination number 1 -2014.

3. Determination by the Authority

As referred to above, 2013 saw the introduction of the Leap card on Bus Éireann services in the eastern part of the country. The Leap card is now been rolled out in the Greater Cork Area on a phased basis. Phase 1 of this process saw the introduction in February this year of the Leap card in the red zone in Cork city which covered the old city network zone.

Phase 2 which will be introduced at the end of March sees the roll out of Leap products in the green zone which extends from the red zone to towns about 15 to 20 km outside Cork city. The Leap card roll out includes adult single tickets, adult 1-day rolling ticket and adult 7-day rolling ticket in the

green zone and the replacing of current monthly and annual paper tickets in both the red zone and the green zone with Leapcard products.

It is expected that Leap card fares for students and children will be introduced later this year in the Greater Cork Area.

Bus Éireann are introducing zonal 1-day rolling, 7-day rolling, monthly and annual tickets for the green zone. These zonal tickets will allow holders to unlimited travel within the relevant zone(s) for the duration of the ticket. For example a current day return ticket will allow two trips only between a defined origin and destination while a 1-day rolling zone ticket will allow unlimited trips within the zone in any 24 hours. Similarly a 10 Journey ticket allows 5 trips only in each direction between a defined origin and destination to be taken in a 7 day period while the new 7-day rolling zonal ticket will allow unlimited travel on any service in the appropriate zone for 7 consecutive days from date of first activation.

This determination is setting the fares for:

- Adult single Leap fares for green zone and Greater Cork Area
- Adult green zone 1-day rolling ticket and 7-day rolling ticket.
- Adult red zone and adult green zone monthly tickets, tax saver monthly tickets and tax saver annual tickets.

Adult single Leap fares for green zone and Greater Cork Area

In Determination number 1 - 2014 which the Authority issued in February we determined that the Leap card discount for the Cork red zone services would be 16% and the Authority is now extending this discount to the green zone. This is also the discount currently available for adult cash single fares on all Bus Éireann stage carriage services. This means that when one pays for an adult single fare using credit on their Leap card they will pay 16% less than the adult cash fare.

This 16% discount is currently available on adult single fares in the red zone and from the end of March will be available on adult single cash fares in the green zone. This 16% discount will also be available on all Bus Éireann routes in the Greater Cork Area from route 201 to route 261 inclusive.

As can be seen from the table 1 savings of up to €1.20 can be made on an adult single fare when using the Leap card rather than cash.

Table 1 - Comparison of cash fares and Leap card fares

			Cash Fares	Leap Card Fare	Saving when using Leap	% saving when using Leap
ZONE	ROUTE	DESTINATION	Adult single	Adult single	Adult single	Adult single
Green	232	Ballincollig	€3.70	€3.11	€0.59	16%
Green	215	Blarney	€4.00	€3.36	€0.64	16%
Green	221	Hazelwood	€4.10	€3.44	€0.66	16%
Green	223	Monkstown	€5.00	€4.20	€0.80	16%
Green	221	Knockraha	€5.30	€4.45	€0.85	16%
Green	222	Carrigaline	€3.70	€3.11	€0.59	16%
Green	260	Carrigtwohill	€5.00	€4.20	€0.80	16%
Green	222	Crosshaven	€6.40	€5.38	€1.02	16%
Green	223	Ringaskiddy	€7.10	€5.96	€1.14	16%
Green	223	Haulbowline	€7.50	€6.30	€1.20	16%

Adult green zone 1-day rolling ticket and 7-day rolling ticket.

The Authority has determined that the Bus Éireann proposed fares for the adult green zone 1-day rolling Leap tickets and 7-day rolling Leap tickets are appropriate and will be available from a number of payzone outlets in selected shops from the end of March.

The 1-day and 7-day rolling fares can be compared to the current day-return and 10 Journey tickets. In a small number of cases the new Leap card 1-day and 7-day rolling fares will be slightly dearer than the current day return and 10 journey tickets but the new tickets offer greater flexibility and unlimited travel within the zone(s) valid on the ticket. The zonal fare system will be easier to understand and more customer friendly. Customers can also potentially travel different routes to their destination with zonal tickets.

The Leap card 1-day rolling ticket will be valid for 24 hours rather than for one calendar day while the 7-day rolling ticket is valid for 7 days from date of first activation and this will offer greater flexibility to the public transport passenger who uses the Leap card.

It is expected that the current paper day return ticket and paper 10 journey tickets will be phased out over time as passengers become familiar with the Leap card products. Table 2 gives a summary of the fares as determined by the Authority for 1-day and 7-day fares.

Table 2 - Cork green zone adult 1-day and 7-day fares

	1-day fare	7-day fare
Leap card rolling tickets	€8.00	€35.00

Adult red zone and adult green zone monthly tickets, taxsaver monthly tickets and taxsaver annual tickets

The current monthly paper ticket available from Bus Éireann and the current monthly taxsaver paper ticket and annual taxsaver paper ticket available through your employer will from the end of March be replaced by a red zone or green zone monthly or annual ticket on the Leap card. Neither monthly nor annual tickets will increase in price and in fact a number of monthly and annual tickets will drop in price such as the current tickets for Glanmire in the red zone and Knockraha and Carrigtwohill in the green zone. The new annual ticket for Knockraha and Carrigtwohill will be €1,012 down from €1,692 a massive saving of €680 per year.

Monthly tickets and monthly taxsaver tickets are the same price however savings of between 31% - 52% in tax, PRSI and Universal Social Charge can be made on the approved prices for the monthly tickets under the Taxsaver scheme. Over 3,500 companies in Ireland now purchase monthly and annual taxsaver tickets for their employees under this scheme. Companies can also save up to 10.75% in PRSI. Similar savings are available on the annual taxsaver tickets. Table 3 below outlines the prices as determined by the Authority for the monthly and annual tickets.

Table 2 – Cork red zone and green zone adult monthly and annual fares

			Current Fares - Adult			New Leap Card Fares - Adult		
			Adult	Taxsaver fares		Adult	Taxsaver fares	
ZONE	ROUTE	DESTINATION	Monthly	Monthly	Annual	Monthly	Monthly	Annual
Red	201 - 219	Non Cross City	€74.00	€74.00	€814.00	€74.00	€74.00	€814.00
Red	201-219	Cross City	€74.00	€74.00	€814.00	€74.00	€74.00	€814.00
Red	221	Glanmire	€92.00	€92.00	€1,012.00	€74.00	€74.00	€814.00
Green	232	Ballincollig	€92.00	€92.00	€1,012.00	€92.00	€92.00	€1,012.00
Green	215	Blarney	€92.00	€92.00	€1,012.00	€92.00	€92.00	€1,012.00
Green	221	Hazelwood	€92.00	€92.00	€1,012.00	€92.00	€92.00	€1,012.00
Green	223	Monkstown	€92.00	€92.00	€1,012.00	€92.00	€92.00	€1,012.00
Green	221	Knockraha	€144.00	€144.00	€1,692.00	€92.00	€92.00	€1,012.00
Green	222	Carrigaline	€92.00	€92.00	€1,012.00	€92.00	€92.00	€1,012.00
Green	260	Carrigtwohill	€144.00	€144.00	€1,692.00	€92.00	€92.00	€1,012.00
Green	222	Crosshaven	€92.00	€92.00	€1,012.00	€92.00	€92.00	€1,012.00
Green	223	Ringaskiddy	€92.00	€92.00	€1,012.00	€92.00	€92.00	€1,012.00
Green	223	Haulbowline	€92.00	€92.00	€1,012.00	€92.00	€92.00	€1,012.00

The Authority has determined that Bus Éireann can implement the red zone and green zone Leap card fares as outlined above from the 24th March 2014 and must implement them by the 24th April 2014, unless there are technical reasons why this cannot be done.

It is expected that student and child fares will also be available on the Leap card in the Greater Cork Area before the end of this year.

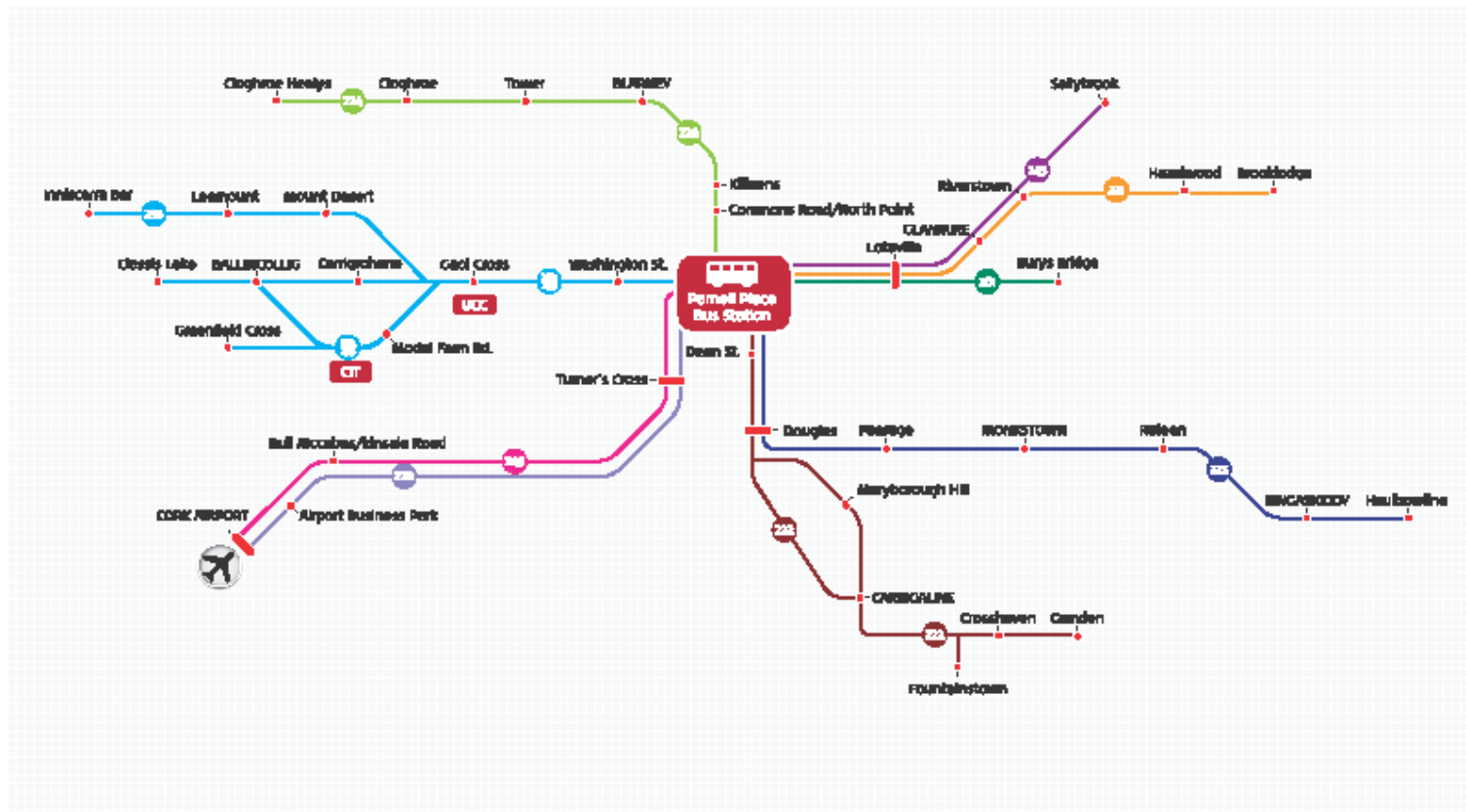
There are a number of benefits to the new Bus Éireann Leap card proposals, including:

- Leap card single tickets are 16% cheaper than cash tickets.
- The 1-day Rolling Leap card tickets are valid for 24 hour instead of one calendar day.
- The 1-day & 7-day rolling Leap tickets will be available to purchase at a number of payzone outlets in selected shops throughout the city and passengers will not need to go to their local bus station to purchase a weekly ticket.
- No need for the Leap card user to carry coins.
- Time savings resulting from faster vehicle boarding.
- Customers can continue to buy their existing cash tickets at the same price and in some cases at a cheaper price.
- The zonal system has the advantage of greater flexibility and unlimited travel within the zone(s) valid on the ticket.
- The zonal fare system will be easier to understand and more customer friendly.
- Customers can potentially travel different routes to their destination with zonal tickets.

4. Conclusion

The introduction and expansion of Bus Éireann's Leap card to Cork is a positive development for customers. It will see cheaper fares for a number of customers migrating to the Leap card. There will be added functionality with the 1-day rolling ticket offering 24 hours travel compared to the current day return tickets. 7-day rolling tickets will be more readily available to purchase at selected shops rather than only at the bus station.

The extension of the Leap card to Bus Éireann customers in the Greater Cork Area will ensure that they can reap the benefits of the existing scheme, as well as the specific new features of the Bus Éireann Leap card tickets. In providing cheaper tickets, better value and additional outlets to purchase your tickets, the introduction and expansion of Bus Éireann's Leap card tickets will provide a better service and one that's easier to use.



map not to scale, for reference purposes only.

Cork Suburban Network Limits

