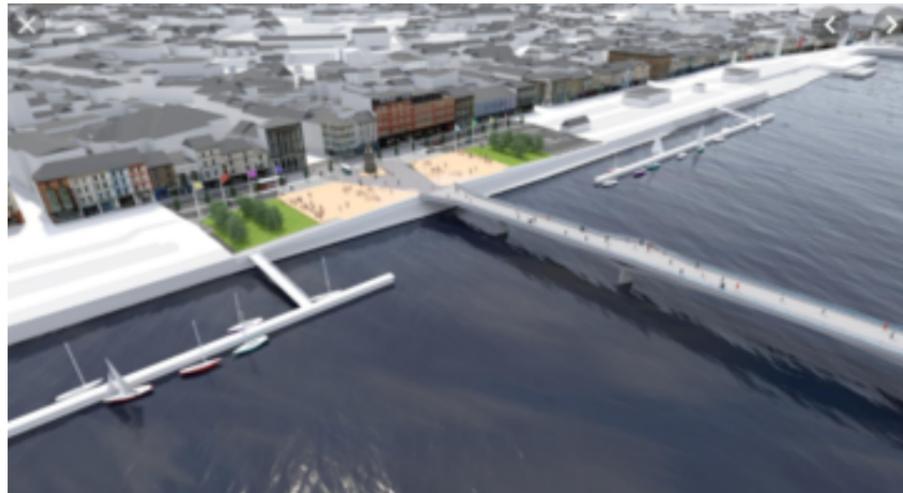


## WATERFORD RIVER SUIR BRIDGE

Computer Generated Image of the proposed River Suir Bridge (Source; Waterford County Council)



A new River Suir sustainable transport Bridge is proposed in Waterford City. The 207-metre-long pedestrian bridge will link the North Quays with the area around the Clock Tower and will include a shuttle bus that will regularly travel between both sides of the river. The bridge will have an opening section of the bridge and will allow river traffic to pass through. There will be several areas where mini cafes or coffee docks can be located. The bridge will include CCTV to ensure safety for pedestrians.

The bridge will provide a connection between both sides of the River Suir. There is currently one crossing of the River Suir on Rice Bridge. The proposed sustainable transport bridge will support sustainable modes of transport allowing for pedestrians, cyclists and curtesy electric buses to link the North Quays and South Quays that will promote further development in Waterford City. The North Quay area is zoned as a Strategic Development Zone, this is an area of land proposed to contain developments of economic or social importance to the State.

The proposed development has gathered a wide range of views. Many members of the public believe the bridge is one of the most important aspects of the North Quays project as it will be a link to Waterford city centre.

However, many members of the public think the Bridge design lacks a visual impact as it mirrors Rice Bridge. People feel the design for the Bridge should make an impact on visitors and the design to be unique to encourage visitors to Waterford City. The bridge has the potential to be a landmark for Waterford City. Currently, the bus plans are proposed to travel as far as the Clock Tower many people would prefer the bus to travel further to the Apple Market area.

Following public consultation, the planning application will be submitted to An Bord Pleanála who is the third-party appeals board in Ireland and are responsible for making decisions on strategic infrastructure developments that the River Suir Bridge is classified as. An Bord Pleanála will consider the design, any environmental impacts on the river Suir, planning guidelines for the area and any third party appeals made by the public or interest groups.

A decision will soon be made by An Bord Pleanála who will decide the future of the Bridge. Waterford City & Council and the public viewpoints will be taken into account by An Bord Pleanála who will make a decision that will ensure a sustainable future of the area.