

Business Support Fund Schemes

Sustaining Business in
South County Dublin



Guidelines



What is the purpose of the Business Support Funds?

Unlock the potential of your business with South Dublin County Council's Business Support Fund Scheme - a forward-thinking initiative designed to revitalise premises and support enterprise growth across the county.

Through eight targeted funding streams, the scheme offers practical support to help businesses upgrade their spaces, attract customers, and strengthen their presence. By encouraging investment in commercial and industrial properties, it aims to enhance the overall quality and vitality of business areas.

A key priority is the renewal of properties in areas affected by vacancy, dereliction, or underinvestment, helping to bring spaces back into use and support wider community regeneration.





1. Start-up Rates Support

South Dublin County Council provides support to businesses moving into their first commercial premises through a contribution towards commercial rates over three years (75% / 50% / 25%). The scheme is open to businesses located in industrial areas and on village main streets, food hubs or areas supporting the evening-time economy in Tallaght.

Eligibility

The scheme is open to:

- New businesses and microenterprises moving into their first commercial premises
- Businesses locating in industrial areas, village main streets, food hubs or areas supporting the evening-time economy in Tallaght

To qualify, applicants must:

- Be entering into their first commercial premises (i.e. not relocating from an existing commercial unit)
- Be the ratepayer, or responsible for the commercial rates liability, on the premises
- Be actively establishing and operating a commercial business from the unit
- Demonstrate a clear intention to trade and develop the business on a sustainable basis
- Be tax compliant and provide relevant business registration details
- Provide all required documentation, including lease/licence agreements and rate account information

Scan to apply:







2. Micro Enterprise Development - Vacant Premises

The Micro Enterprise Development Fund supports businesses across South Dublin to grow, innovate and bring vacant or under-used premises back into productive use. It provides flexible funding to help entrepreneurs, start-ups and established businesses establish, expand or upgrade their operations. Grants are available for refurbishing vacant units, converting premises for new uses and creating affordable space for start-ups. The scheme aims to reduce vacancy, support entrepreneurship and strengthen local economic activity across the county.

Applications can be made on an individual basis. The following funding limits will apply to this part of the business support scheme:

- Maximum of 75% of the applicant's total cost
- Up to a maximum grant of €50,000

Eligibility

- The scheme is open to business premises that wish to carry out works of their own premises
- The Business Support Fund is a grant scheme that supports businesses in South Dublin County to grow, innovate and bring vacant or under-utilised industrial premises back into use. The expanded scheme combines supports for enterprise hubs, food businesses and commercial property revitalisation, helping to create modern, flexible spaces for businesses to start and expand



Scan to apply:

- The fund is limited, and early application is encouraged. South Dublin County Council will endeavour to coordinate schemes as they arise; however, it is important to note that the design and delivery of the works will be the responsibility of the applicant. All proposals must be submitted for approval and will be assessed by the Local Authority, subject to meeting certain criteria





3. Towns & Villages Vacant Premises Activation Grant

The Towns & Villages Vacant Premises Activation Grant supports the re use of vacant and under utilised commercial units within town centres and main streets by assisting with adaptation, and temporary or start up occupation, helping to reduce vacancy and support enterprise growth.

- Maximum of 75% of the applicant's total cost
- Up to a maximum grant of €50,000

Eligibility

- Applications proposing higher spend will be reviewed on a case by case basis
- Proposals must demonstrate an appropriate and compatible use of the premises
- Consideration will be given to the number of jobs to be created or sustained
- The level of financial investment being made by the applicant business will be assessed
- Priority will be given based on the length of time the property has been vacant
- The location of the premises, including its contribution to town centre or strategic employment areas, will be taken into account
- South Dublin County Council reserves the right to determine the eligibility of applications based on the nature of the proposed business use, and to refuse funding where the use is deemed inappropriate or does not align with the objectives of the scheme



Scan to apply:

- Businesses locating in village main streets, food hubs or areas supporting the evening-time economy in Tallaght

The fund is limited, and early application is encouraged. South Dublin County Council will endeavour to coordinate schemes as they arise; however, it is important to note that the design and delivery of the works will be the responsibility of the applicant. All proposals must be submitted for approval and will be assessed, subject to meeting certain criteria.





4. Individual Unit Support

South Dublin County Council will support businesses that wish to upgrade their external, public-facing property. This includes a broad range of improvement works, from simple upgrades such as painting and signage replacement, to more substantial works such as upgrading or replacing shopfronts, as well as boundary treatment, wall repair, landscaping, and other enhancements that contribute positively to the overall appearance of the premises.

Applications can be made on an individual basis. The following funding limits will apply to this part of the business support scheme:

- Maximum of 75% of the applicant's total cost
- Up to a maximum grant of €5,000

Eligibility

The scheme is open to businesses located in industrial areas, village main streets, food hubs and enterprise centres

- The scheme is open to business premises that wish to carry out works to improve the public-facing elements of their own individual premises
- All proposals must be submitted for approval and will be assessed by the Local Authority, subject to meeting certain criteria



Scan to apply:





5. Industrial Area Improvement Scheme

This fund applies to groups of businesses, management companies or individual business that are in a position to upgrade the public exterior of the industrial estate.

Who is eligible to apply?

The scheme is open to occupiers within industrial areas that wish to carry out certain works to improve the area of industrial estate they occupy, or the public facing element of their own individual premises. Preference will be given to groups of companies who come together or collaborate to improve a wider area.

What types of works will be funded?

It is South Dublin County Council's position not to be overly prescriptive with regard to eligible works. However, the following criteria can be used as a guide to what may or may not be considered acceptable works.

- Work should be public facing and improve the visual appearance and aesthetics of an area (works proposed to benefit singular premises will not be given the same priority as works that will improve the general appearance of a wider area with the exception of large scale sites that impact widely within any particular industrial area)
- Acceptable work may include, but not be limited to: landscaping, footpath works and minor roadworks, planting, boundary treatment, fencing, permeability schemes including desired footpaths and access to amenities and retail areas, painting, and provision of screened serviced areas



Scan to apply:

- Any physical work, within the parameters defined, that will revitalise an industrial area will be considered
- Only work / expenditure carried out after a successful application can be considered for support under this scheme

*Large scale projects will be assessed on a case-by-case basis for additional support.

The fund is limited, and early application is encouraged. South Dublin County Council will endeavour to coordinate schemes as they arise; however, it is important to note that the design and delivery of the works will be the responsibility of the applicant. All proposals must be submitted for approval and will be assessed, subject to meeting certain criteria.





6. Evening Time Economy Premises Support Scheme

The Evening Time Economy (ETE) Premises Support Scheme provides funding to businesses to enhance their premises and support trading during evening hours. It aims to increase vibrancy, improve the appearance and safety of commercial areas, and encourage greater footfall and economic activity after 5pm, in Tallaght.

Eligibility

The scheme is open to:

- New and existing businesses operating from commercial premises
- Business located in Tallaght - Premises located within the defined Tallaght town centre study area, broadly encompassing the area between Tallaght Village, County Hall/Parthalán Place, and Tallaght Stadium
- Enterprises that are operating, or proposing to operate, during evening hours (typically after 5pm)

To qualify, applicants must:

- Demonstrate how their business will actively contribute to the evening-time economy
- Operate or propose to operate during extended evening hours
- Be carrying out improvements to a fixed commercial premises that are visible and contribute to the public realm
- Be the owner or tenant of the premises, with landlord consent where applicable
- Be fully tax compliant and provide relevant business details

Scan to apply:



- Ensure that all works comply with planning and other statutory requirements, where applicable
- Provide quotations, project details, and supporting documentation as required

Priority may be given to projects that:

- Activate vacant or underutilised premises
- Introduce new or expanded evening uses (e.g. dining, cultural, or social activity)
- Improve safety, lighting, and attractiveness of an area after dark
- Generate additional footfall and economic activity





7. Micro Enterprise Development - Food Business Development

The Micro Enterprise Development Fund is a targeted grant scheme supporting food businesses across South Dublin County to grow, innovate and establish themselves in suitable commercial premises. It aims to bring vacant or underused spaces into active use as food production, preparation and retail hubs.

The scheme supports the development of shared kitchens, food enterprise spaces and the upgrade of premises to meet regulatory standards. It is designed to assist start-ups and established food businesses to establish, expand or transition into permanent locations, strengthening the local food economy and supporting employment.

Funding of up to 75% of eligible costs (to a maximum of €50,000) is available, with larger projects considered on a case-by-case basis where they demonstrate strong economic impact, job creation and community benefit. The scheme seeks to reduce vacancy, encourage entrepreneurship and enhance local economic activity.

Eligibility

Projects must relate to premises within South Dublin County, with priority given to strategically important employment locations. Funding is intended for capital works such as refurbishment, structural upgrades and the adaptation of premises, rather than minor improvements or standard fit-out.



Scan to apply:

Applications will be assessed on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the scale, quality and potential impact of the proposal. Preference will be given to projects that demonstrate clear potential for business growth, job creation and long-term economic benefit, particularly where they support the re-use of vacant or under-utilised premises.





8. Micro Enterprise Development – Enterprise Hubs and Shared Workspaces

The Micro Enterprise Development Fund is a targeted grant scheme supporting the development of enterprise hubs and shared workspaces across South Dublin County. It aims to encourage business growth and innovation by bringing vacant or underused spaces back into active use as modern, flexible working environments.

Building on the success of the existing programme, the scheme has been expanded to respond to current economic challenges, including vacancy, rising costs and the need for adaptable workspace solutions. It provides a streamlined approach to funding that supports the creation and enhancement of collaborative workspaces for entrepreneurs, start-ups and established businesses.

Funding of up to 75% of eligible costs (to a maximum of €50,000) is available, with larger projects considered on a case-by-case basis where they demonstrate strong economic impact, job creation and community benefit. The scheme aims to reduce vacancy, support enterprise development and strengthen local economic activity across the county.

Eligibility

Projects must relate to premises within South Dublin County, with particular consideration given to strategically important employment locations. Funding is intended for capital works such as refurbishment, structural upgrades or the adaptation of premises, rather than minor improvements or standard internal fit-out.



Scan to apply:

Applications will be assessed on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the scale, quality and potential impact of each proposal. Priority will be given to projects that demonstrate clear potential for business growth, job creation and long-term economic benefit, particularly where they contribute to the revitalisation of vacant or underutilised spaces.





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Business Support Fund Schemes

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