



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council



Vacant to Vibrant

Retail Economic Incentive Scheme



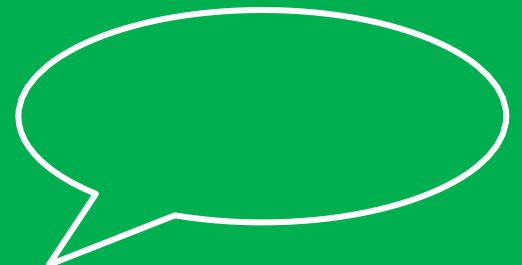
Limerick Welcomes New Business

Tel. 061 556000

business@limerick.ie

www.Limerick.ie/Business

Find us on



Limerick City & County Council

Vacant to Vibrant

Retail Economic Incentive Scheme for Vacant Property

Guidelines and Criteria:

Vacant to Vibrant, a retail economic incentive scheme, has been created to incentivise the development of certain retail uses in our city and town centres. The new scheme is designed to combat increasing vacancy in the core retail area of Limerick City Centre and some county towns.

Within Limerick city centre, this pilot scheme will be made available to 13 new businesses who meet the eligibility criteria. Qualifying applicants will need to open a new store in the designated city centre streets of Ellen Street, Denmark Street, Cruises Street, William Street, Thomas Street, Catherine Street, Little Catherine Street, Foxes Bow, Cecil Street, Roches Street, O'Connell Street, Patrick Street, Bedford Row, Sarsfield Street, Henry Street, Shannon Street or Nicholas Street.

The area marked "town centre" in the zoning maps of the towns of Castleconnell and Patrickswell will also be eligible.

Furthermore, the scheme will be made available to 12 new eligible businesses opening in the centre of towns within each of the three Municipal Districts of;

1. Adare–Rathkeale,
2. Cappamore-Kilmallock
3. Newcastle West.

The eligible towns will be level 2, level 3 and level 4 towns as set out in the settlement hierarchy and the eligible areas within these towns will be the area marked "town centre" in the zoning maps for the town.

The grant relief provided by the Scheme is as follows: A maximum of €6,000 grant to be provided over two years on a step back basis to contribute towards fit out and overheads. The grant will be paid each year on production of proof of expenditure and subject to the applicant continuing to trade.

- Year one – €4,000
- Year two - €2,000

Limerick Medieval Quarter: In addition, location specific supports will be considered for Limerick Medieval Quarter (MQ). Preference will be given to applicants that support the production and retail of arts, crafts and creative / cultural enterprises; and which incentivise the community of LMQ to showcase their production methods as well as selling products.

If the maximum number of grants available has not been taken up by the end of September in each year, then the grant may be transferred to another district that has excess valid applications meeting the criteria.

Status of property to qualify for this scheme

- a) In order to qualify for this scheme the property must be vacant for at least one month on the day the application form is submitted.
- b) Businesses relocating to a similar sized premises within the eligible areas will not qualify for grant relief under the scheme, however, businesses opening a second store will be considered. The operation of the Vibrant to Vacant Scheme shall not result in the displacement of a business from one property to another and/or from

the same property. However should a proposed business or retail use type be able to adequately demonstrate that they require a larger premises that will have a positive economic impact, consideration will be given to the inclusion of such a proposal under the terms of this scheme.

c) The business must be located within the designated areas.

In addition, the following factors will be taken into account in the consideration of Grant Aid:

- The number and proximity of similar outlets/ services already operating in the area
- The scale of the proposed outlet
- The physical impact of the proposed use on the internal structure of the building in which it will be located
- The quality of the shop front design and associate signage, which should be of high quality and be in accordance with the guidelines produced by Limerick City & County Council

This scheme will operate from 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024

Categories of Business

Eligible Categories of Business:

- Cosmetics / beauty products specialist
Health Food shops
- Shoe shops
- Toy shops
- Hi-tech / High-end electronics
- Music shops
- Specialist (hobby) shops
- Artisan / Craft Shops
- Giftware/Interiors
- Fashion businesses and shops
- High end retail - globally scaled
- Shops offering a unique experience

Specifically defined use:

- Cinema
- Theatre

Ineligible Businesses

- Amusement arcades/ bookmakers/ betting shops
- Catalogue shop
- Discount shop
- Fast food outlet/ cafe/ restaurant/ takeaway
- Mobile phone/ Internet shop
- Newsagents/ convenience store
- Off license
- Night club/ pub
- Head/ Grow Shop
- Vape Shops
- Tattoo Parlors
- Adult shops
- Hair dresser/ Beauty salon/nail bars/ tanning studio/eyebrow shops
- Supermarket
- Fuel Stations/Forecourt Shops.
- Shops in indoor shopping centres
- Pop-Up Shops

SECTION A – Applicant details

| | |
|--|--|
| Name of applicant (Company Name if applicable): Name of Contact Person: | |
| Address of applicant | |
| Email address of applicant: | |
| Phone number of applicant: | |
| VAT registration number: | |
| PPS No (if individual): | |
| Address of vacant property to be occupied: | |
| Area of property to be occupied (basement, ground floor, first floor etc.) | |
| State if you are the owner of vacant property or if property is leased (If leased, provide name and address of the property owner): | |
| If property leased state duration of lease being entered into: | |
| Date of commencement of lease: | |
| Tax Clearance Certificate Number and Expiry Date (please enclosed a copy): | |
| Date of last annual return filed in the Company Registration Office (if applicable) : | |

SECTION B – Applicant Type

| | |
|--|--|
| Company/Sole Trader/Individual/Partnership: | |
| Community Group: | |
| Cooperative: | |

If applicant is a Limited Company please complete section below

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Company Registration Number: | |
| Date of Incorporation: | |

SECTION C – Details of proposed business/retail use for vacant property

| | |
|---|--|
| Business Name: | |
| Stage of Business i.e. Pre-Start-Up/Start-Up(<18 months)/Growth > 18months): | |
| Business Website: | |
| Date trading expected to commence: | |
| List location(s)/address where currently trading (if applicable): | |
| Specify business/retail use type: | |

Checklist - Please ensure that the following documentation is included in the application:

- Copy of Tax Clearance Certificate
- Copy of Rates Account Statement
- Copy of lease agreement (if not owner of vacant property subject to this claim) or if you are owner of vacant property – need to provide evidence of property ownership (e.g. Land Registry Certificate)
- Copies of any relevant market research undertaken

DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION – FREEDOM OF INFORM

Limerick City & County Council wishes to advise applicants that, under the Freedom of Information Act 2014 the information supplied in the application form may be made available on request, subject to Limerick City & County Councils obligations under law.

You are asked to consider if any of the information supplied by you in this application should not be disclosed because of sensitivity. If this is the case you should, when providing the information, identify same and specify the reasons for its sensitivity. Limerick City & County Council will consult with you about sensitive information before making a decision on any Freedom of Information request received.

However, if you consider that none of the information supplied by you is sensitive, please complete the statement below to that effect. Such information may be released in response to a Freedom of Information request.

Name of Applicant (in block capitals): _____ hereby agrees that none of the information supplied is sensitive, and any, or all, of the information supplied, may be released in response to a Freedom of Information request.

Signed: _____

Company/Organisations name (if applicable): _____

Position: _____ Date: _____

DISCLAIMER - PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

It will be a condition of any application for funding under the terms and conditions of the Vacant to Vibrant Scheme that the applicant has read, understood and accepted the following:

1. Limerick City & County Council shall not be liable to the applicant or any other party, in respect of any loss, damage or costs of any nature arising directly or indirectly from:

- a) the application or the subject matter of the application,
- b) the rejection for any reason of any application.

2. Limerick City & County Council shall not be held responsible or liable, at any time in any circumstances, in relation to any matter whatsoever arising in connection with the administration of activities.

Declaration by Applicant(s)

I/We have read and understood the **guidelines and criteria** as set out in this application and agree to comply in full therewith. I/We certify that all information provided in this application, and all information given in any documentation submitted in support of the application is truthful and accurate.

Name: (in block capitals): _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

On behalf of: (company/ organisation's name):

Completed Application Forms should be submitted to:

Trade & Investment,
Merchants Quay,
Limerick

Alternatively the completed form can be e-mailed to business@limerick.ie