

12 November 2015

To: The Mayor and Each Member of Limerick City and County Council

Re: Proposed Tourism Sector Support Scheme 2016

Introduction

The proposed Tourism Sector Support Scheme will pay a financial support to occupiers of commercial properties, directly linked to the tourism and hospitality Sector subject to the Scheme being approved by the Council. It is hoped that the scheme will further stimulate the tourism sector here in Limerick.

The property types that would qualify for the scheme include Hotels, Licensed Houses, Restaurants / Cafes and Hostels.

In order to qualify, the total annual Commercial Rates liability must be in excess of €10,000 (Business's with a Rate Demand less than €10,000 already qualify for the SME Scheme 2016) and is subject to a number of strict terms and conditions. The support grant payment which is aimed specifically at the Tourism Sector will be set at 5% of the total Rates, including arrears, for 2016

Terms and Conditions of the Scheme

Applicants must be the occupiers of a commercially rated property in Limerick City or County which meets the following criteria;

- Total annual commercial rates invoice(s) must be greater than €10,000 in 2016.
- Applications are to be made by the rated occupier only - Applications by owner on behalf of a tenant are not permitted.

- The Commercial Rates (including arrears) relating to the relevant account must be paid in full by 31st July 2016 - this date is final and applies if using any payment method other than Direct Debit.
- Applicants paying by Direct Debit qualify under the scheme provided the commercial rate account is paid in full by 31st December 2016.
- The support grant payment can only be made where the annual rates charge and any arrears due are paid in full by the rated occupier. Accounts where a change of Owner/Tenant or the sale of a property has taken place may not qualify for payment under the Scheme.
- Applications must be made in writing to : Tourism Sector Support Scheme, Limerick City and County Council, Rates Department, Dooradoyle, Co. Limerick.

Exceptions

Vacant Property - Owners of Vacant Property can apply separately for Vacant Property Grant Allowance Scheme 2016.

The Council are asked to consider the adoption of the Tourism Sector Support Scheme 2016 in accordance with Section 66 of the Local Government Act, 2001, as amended by Section 43 of the Local Government Reform Act, 2014

Sean Coughlan

Acting Head of Finance