

**MEETING OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENTERPRISE, TOURISM, AND
PLANNING STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE OF LIMERICK TO BE HELD ON
23rd JUNE 2025**

**Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Peter Doyle (At Meeting of the Metropolitan
District of Limerick held on 19th May, 2025, to be referred to the Economic Development,
Enterprise, Tourism, and Planning Strategic Policy Committee)**

I will move at the next meeting of the Metropolitan District of Limerick that Limerick City and County Council would introduce measures to incentivise the use of vacant city centre retail units like one year's rates exempt for new retail premises and penalties for owners of vacant retail premises that have been idle for over two years.

Reply:

As part of the Statutory Budget 2026 process, we will consider, in collaboration with the finance department, the potential for a scheme that provides either a grant or temporary business rates exemption for new independent retailers that occupy vacant premises. This proposal will be considered in the context of preparing a new scheme for the SME sector and reviewing the existing Small and Medium Business Support Scheme and the Vacant Property Refund Scheme. Any scheme proposed would be a matter for the elected members to approve, amend, or reject as part of the Annual Statutory Budget Approval Process.

For information, the following supports are already available to retail businesses:

- **Retail Economic Incentive Scheme (Vacant to Vibrant Scheme)** to incentivise the development of certain retail uses in our city centre. The scheme is specifically designed to combat increasing vacancy in the core retail area of Limerick City. A maximum grant of €6,000 is provided over two years on a step back basis to contribute towards fit out and overhead costs.

- **Small & Medium Business Support Scheme** for commercial rate payers. Any business with total annual Commercial Rates bills under €30k are eligible. Once the rate demand is paid, the Rates Section authorise a rebate of 13.5% of the rate demand, up to a maximum of €1,500. The same scheme has been adopted by the Councillors for 2025.
- The Councils marketing department works with stakeholders to assist with marketing and promotion of events.
- The Council continues to work with city centre business on programme of events to encourage footfall (e.g. Riverfest, Twilight Thursdays).
- The Council continue to provide social media platform for business to promote their goods.

In addition, Local Enterprise Office (LEO) supports are available for retail and businesses. See list below. Further details available from The Local Enterprise Offices.

- The **Grow Digital Voucher** offers small and medium businesses with up to 50 employees' financial support of up to €5,000 to embrace digital technology.
- **Energy Efficiency Grant** – Incentives up to €10,000 available for business/retailers for green initiatives.

Is mise le meas,

Brendan Troy
Head of Trade and Investment