



Dear Sir/ Madam

The prosperous economic development of our county is of utmost importance to South Dublin County Council, and in collaboration with South Dublin Chamber of Commerce and more recently the Local Enterprise Office South Dublin, we have administered a very successful county wide support programme, focussing on **Sustaining and Developing Business** since 2011. This programme is designed to support businesses in understanding and dealing with ongoing challenges such as business regulation, energy consumption, marketing, training supports, local networks and business expansion opportunities, and has a Business Support Executive available to meet business owners directly throughout the year (email: andrea.carroll@sdchamber.ie).

This year, under this programme we are carrying out an extensive **Economic Profiling Survey** of business in the county. In order to fully understand the business needs in the County we are carrying out a short survey in conjunction with South Dublin Chamber – the survey has 7 questions and takes 3 minutes to complete. We would very much appreciate your co-operation in completing the survey.

In addition, SMEs may also be entitled to a **Business Support Grant** of up to €670 on payment of rates and completion of the survey by August 29th, 2014. Hundreds of businesses have completed the survey and applied for the grant. Ensure you don't miss out by going to www.sdcc.ie/business.

The purpose of this research is to enable a complete profile of business types operating in South Dublin County to be analysed and mapped. It is critically important that the Local Authority and Business Support agencies develop an in-depth understanding of the nature and range of businesses located in our county, in order to provide them the necessary supports required.

Developing an understanding of business in this way will facilitate the Business Support Programme and Businesses generally in:

- Understanding the nature and operation of our local economy
- Establishing targeted supports for clusters of like-minded businesses
- Identifying future training and skill requirements for business segments
- Examining opportunities for business expansion and exporting

This survey is the first step in this process. **Results of the survey** will be made available in a public report for use by all businesses.

As part of the range of supports provided to business under this scheme we are making available a **Business Support Grant to businesses in the County paying up to €10,000 in Rates per year who complete this survey by 29th August 2014**. For more information on this and how to apply please go to www.sdcc.ie/business.

Please complete this Business Support Survey (available online at www.sdcc.ie/business, or you may **request a hard copy on 01-4585212**) as soon as possible, closing on **29th August 2014**. Note that all information submitted through the survey will be dealt with in the strictest confidence and will not be used for any purpose other than that outlined above, and will not be passed onto any third parties.

Yours sincerely,



Loman O'Byrne, Head of Local Enterprise.