COMHAIRLE CONTAE ÁTHA CLIATH THEAS
SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL



MEETING OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENTERPRISE AND TOURISM SPC

Wednesday, September 09, 2015

HEADED ITEM NO.2

**HEADED ITEM: E. Development, Enterprise and Tourism**

**Business support measures report**

**REPLY:**

**Business Support Grant – Ratepayers under €10,000:**

**Letters have issued to all** 4767 eligible ratepayers.

Already 675 applications have been received, the majority using the online application system.

The total grant payable to these applicants is €261,065.

It is anticipated that over €450,000 will be paid out under this project by year end.

**Business Support Grant – Industrial Estates**

As the members will be aware with respect to the utilisation of the Business Support Grant, as agreed, the fund will be used to target industrial vacancy/underutilisation and obsolescence and to promote innovation and enterprise, on a percentage breakdown of -

* 60%- infrastructural upgrading works to be of a capital nature.
* 30%- innovation, startup advice and supports including potential incubation space
* 10%- targeted training, to be identified by targeted surveys and delivered through LEO

Initial meetings were held with a group of industrial occupiers within the Cookstown Industrial estate and the JFK industrial estate. In particular progress is being made in co-ordinating a joint programme of upgrades to upgrade the Old Belgard Road entrance to Cookstown and to improve the permeability with the Cookstown LUAS station.
The number of meetings with industrial occupiers has extended out to Cloverhill, Ballymount:- (Merrywell and Ballymount Drive) as well as Cookstown and JFK. The occupier driven project at Cookstown has been costed whilst similar projects are being sought for support in JFK, Ballymount Drive and Cloverhill.

The Council support is well received however delays have occurred in achieving matching funding from occupiers within any particular area. The Chamber continues to play a role in promoting engagement and advocating the scheme with the various elements of Business support.

The proposed funding model is as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| SCALE OF PROJECT |  |
| From | To | SDCC % |
| €10,000 | €30,000 | 60% |
| €31,000 | €50,000 | 55% |
| €51,000 | €75,000 | 50% |
|  |  |  |

Therefore, for example, if a group of businesses can get together and come up with an appropriate scheme which might otherwise cost over €10,000, then the Council may, subject to assessment of the project, fund between 50% and 60% of that. The project must support economic development, be public facing and bring about improvements to an industrial area.

A Scheme of Funding will be published inviting other industrial occupiers to seek support for eligible projects. Draft application details and guidance are prepared available and will be published in September. From a promotional point of view its felt that an initial exemplar project is crucial in growing business support and awareness of this project into the future.

Within the Council work is ongoing to prepare a further schedule of upgrade

works in conjunction with operations / design departments. Consultation is ongoing with Roads Department and Public Realm in particular. Additional schemes in JFK Drive Ballymount Road Lower and Old Belgard Road / Cookstown are under consideration.

In respect of the Training aspects of the Grant a report is contained under HI (3).