

**SHOP FRONT
IMPROVEMENT
SCHEME 2018**
DOLPHIN'S BARN & RIALTO



DETAILS OF SCHEME

SUPPORTED BY:



Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Atha Cliath
Dublin City Council

SHOP FRONT IMPROVEMENT SCHEME 2018

Supporting a Better Business Environment

INTRODUCTION

Improving the appearance of shopfronts and business premises, and promoting the commercial potential of urban village centres, is a key objective of Dublin City Council as part of the planned Dolphin's Barn Village Enhancement Scheme.

Dublin City Council now invites applications from commercial premises in Dolphin's Barn and Rialto for support funding under the Shopfront Improvement Scheme 2018.

The objective of the scheme is to support commercial premises owners who contribute positively to the local environment and the image of Dolphin's Barn, and who in turn attract increased local and visitor footfall to the area.

The scheme also seeks to encourage best practice approaches to shopfront design, maintenance and presentation, and to contribute to an attractive neighbourhood shopping area.

The improvement scheme is applicable to premises on the following streets:

Dolphin's Barn Road (from Canal to Cork Street)
South Circular Road (from Dolphin's Barn Church to Rialto)
Rialto

HOW TO APPLY

- Complete the application form.
- Enclose relevant plans, design and specification for proposed works.
- Enclose evidence of ownership of the unit or lease agreement.

The closing date for applications is 4pm on **Friday 29th June 2018**. Incentives awarded under the scheme will be notified to applicants in writing by end of July 2018. Grants will be disbursed, subject to available funding and the recommendation of the Assessment Panel, to projects that offer the most benefit to their streets.

Works should be carried out within 4 months of approval of the grant or within 4 months of planning permission being granted where required.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The improvement scheme provides for up to 50% of the cost of a shopfront refurbishment, depending on the work proposed (see 3 below), with a **maximum allowable contribution of €3,000 per applicant**. Assistance will not be offered in retrospect to costs already incurred for the improvement of shopfronts.

The scheme may also be used for specific works to upper floors that contribute to the maintenance of the built environment, namely:

- i. repaint and repair of traditional timber windows;
- ii. repaint and repair of **existing** painted masonry, brickwork and rainwater goods;
- iii. removal of high level signage, redundant utilities, etc.

Where the applicant is a lessee, the lease must have a minimum of 2 years to run and the application should have the consent of the landlord. This requirement will not apply in the case of rolling leases where the lessee can prove continuity for a minimum period of 2 years.

The applicant must not be in arrears as to any payments of rates or charges to Council. Participation in an agreed payment plan with the Rates Office will be considered as compliance.

GRANTS AVAILABLE TO INDIVIDUAL SHOPS

Type of Work	Up to Max. of
a) Paint and redecorate shop front	€2,000
b) Decluttering and repair of shop fronts	
c) Measures to 'green' and enhance attractiveness of shop fronts or outdoor terraces/seating areas through planting	
d) Replace shopfront and/or signage (planning permission generally required)	€3,000
e) Material changes to shopfront such as new entrances, changes to windows etc. (planning permission generally required)	
f) Specified works to upper floors (as per 3 above)	
g) Removal of high level signage within the ACA (first floor and above)	

PLANNING PERMISSIONS AND LICENSING

Planning permission is usually required for substantial works to the front of a building. **Applicants should also be aware that any works to a protected structure require planning permission or the prior agreement of Dublin City Council.**

Generally, works that materially alter the character or appearance of a building, such as the replacement of windows or doors, replacement or addition of signage, addition of canopies and awnings, externally-mounted security shutters, replacement of upper floor windows or

other features integral to the building require a prior grant of planning permission. You may seek further information on planning permissions at www.dublincity.ie/planning

The operation of an external seating area on the public pavement is subject to licence by Dublin City Council. For further details, please see: [Apply for a Tables and Chairs Licence](#)

DESIGN PRINCIPLES

An attractive shopfront to your premises will support the overall attractiveness of both Dolphin's Barn and Rialto as local shopping areas and help to improve footfall to these areas. This scheme supports the following design principles:

1. Shop signage should be limited to one main fascia sign and projecting signage should be located at fascia level. Traditional painted lettering or individual fixed mounted lettering is preferred for signage. Plastic fascias, foam board and canvas banners are not permitted.
2. The addition of high-level signage (i.e. from first floor up) is discouraged and requires planning permission. The removal of old high-level signage is supported (and you may benefit from a higher grant level if this is facilitated).
3. Choice of colour is important: The use of garish or visually strident colours across the entire shopfront is discouraged and careful use of colour, that works in harmony with the materials of the building, is encouraged. Matt paint finishes are generally more durable and work best with other materials such as brick or masonry.
4. Clear and attractive shop windows should be maintained at all times.
5. The removal of redundant wiring, alarm boxes and utilities on premises is encouraged. Adding planting or planters to the front of your premises is encouraged.

Further information on good shopfront design can be found in the [Dublin City Council Shopfront Guidelines](#) available at www.dublincity.ie.

ASSISTANCE

Note that it is the applicant's responsibility to gain the necessary planning permissions, and applications for planning permission will **not** be dealt with through the application process for this scheme.

Please contact [Stephen Coyne, Programme Manager: Liberties Business Area Improvement Initiative](#) for further details on this scheme - tel: 01 222 5180 / 083 194 9009 or email stephen.coyne@dublincity.ie.