



WANT YOUR
SHOP TO LOOK

BETTER

SHOP FRONT IMPROVEMENT SCHEME



Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council

North West Area
Ballymun, Finglas, Ballygall



SHOP FRONT IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

Supporting a Better Business Environment in North West Area

Dublin City Council Ballymun Area Office now invites applications for support funding under the Shop front Improvement Scheme – North West Area. This scheme supports projects that enhance the appearance of shop fronts and business premises in the main commercial areas and urban villages of the North West Area of the City that help to create more inviting and attractive neighbourhood centres.

The scheme encourages best practice approaches to shop front design, maintenance and presentation; the conservation of historic features where appropriate; and the overall enhancement of streetscapes.

The Northwest Area includes: Ballymun, Finglas and Ballygall.

HOW TO APPLY & TERMS

01

Complete the Application Form



02

Enclose relevant plans, design and specification for proposed works



03

Enclose quotation/s from your chosen contractor/s to match the expenditure outlined



04

The closing date for applications is Friday, 28th June 2024



Advice on how to undertake a successful shop front refurbishment and source a suitable contractor is available under this scheme.

Applicants should ensure they have permission to undertake work to a building under a lease or rental agreement. It is the Applicant's responsibility to gain any necessary planning permission (*see Planning Permission & Licensing*).

Applicants must not be in arrears as to any payments of rates or charges to Dublin City Council. Under Revenue rules, Applicants are also required to demonstrate tax compliance.

Grants will be disbursed, subject to available funding and the recommendation of an Assessment Panel, to projects that offer the most benefit to their streets. Grants awarded under the scheme will be notified in writing.

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

GRANTS AVAILABLE

The scheme will support 50% of the cost of a ground floor shop front refurbishment up to a **maximum allowable contribution of €3,000 per applicant** (depending on the work proposed - see *table below*). Assistance will not be offered in retrospect to costs already incurred for the improvement of shop fronts. Eligible costs include:

- i. repaint, repair and reinstatement of traditional timber sash windows;
- ii. repaint and repair of existing painted masonry and rainwater goods;
- iii. removal of upper floor-level signage, redundant utilities and wiring, etc.;
- iv. conservation and repair of historic or heritage features.



Key Items Covered by the Grant	Up to Max. of
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Paint, redecorate or repair a shop front - Measures to 'green' or enhance attractiveness of a shop front or outdoor terraces/ seating areas through planting 	€2,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Replace a shop front and/or signage* - Material changes to a shop front such as new entrances, changes to windows etc.* - Specified works to upper floors of street-facing shops within the Northwest Area - Removal of old or damaged high-level signage within Northwest Area - Changes to facilitate universal access* (*planning permission may be required) 	€3,000

PLANNING PERMISSION & LICENSING

Planning permission is usually required for substantial works to the front of a building, such as material changes to the façade, installing an entire new shop front, or replacing or adding signage. Generally, minor work to redecorate or repair shop fronts is termed 'exempted development', meaning it does not require planning permission.

In the instances of protected structures (sometimes called 'listed buildings') planning permission or the prior agreement of Dublin City Council is generally required for all works.

Within designated Architectural Conservation Areas there are specific policies and conditions in place designed to protect the historic character of these areas. This places additional restrictions on the types of work that might be considered to buildings in these areas.

Typical works that materially alter the character or appearance of a building and generally require prior agreement or a grant of planning permission include: the replacement of a shopfront surround, windows or doors; replacement or addition of signage; addition of canopies and awnings; addition of externally-mounted security shutters; replacement of upper floor windows or other features integral to the character of building. Further information on Planning Permissions can be found at www.dublincity.ie.

The operation of an outside seating area on the public footpath is subject to licence by Dublin City Council. Further details can be found at www.dublincity.ie and search 'Street Furniture Licence'.



DESIGN PRINCIPLES FOR A BETTER SHOP FRONT



An attractive shop front showcases your business but is also important to the overall attractiveness of your street a key driver of footfall to an area. This scheme supports the following design principles:

Shop signage should be limited:

For the most part one main fascia sign and, where permitted, one projecting signage to be located at fascia level.

Signage should be of good quality:

Traditional painted lettering or individual fixed mounted lettering is preferred for signage. Plastic fascia's, light boxes, printed foam boards and canvas banners are not allowed.

Choice of colour is important:

The use of garish or visually strident colours across the entire shopfront is not supported 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

Open and engaging shopfronts, even after dark:

Security shutters should be internally-mounted wherever possible, and a clear and attractive shop window maintained at all times. Lighting fixtures should be attractive and good quality. Architectural lighting to illuminate upper floors is encouraged.

Clutter-free for a tidier street:

The removal of redundant wiring, alarm boxes and utilities on premises is encouraged and requested under this scheme.

For further details on this scheme, please contact:

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