

Press release

9th September 2015

Shop Local Gift Vouchers can be spent in over 130 businesses and helps keep money local!

Every Euro we spend locally has a knock on effect in our community that benefits us and the local economy. The temptation to travel further afield for perceived savings is in many people's minds but Dundalk Chamber believes that these so-called savings are not beneficial for our town where we all live and work. Michael Gaynor President of Dundalk Chamber stated that we "We need to support and value our local shops and businesses as much as possible. Dundalk Chamber's "Shop Local Gift Voucher "can be spent in any shop displaying the '**We Accept Shop Local Vouchers Here**' sign and with over 130 shops participating there is a wide choice of purchases and services ranging from clothing, jewellery, beauty, hospitality, car and household fuel and much more. A Dundalk Chamber Shopping Voucher supports these. Full list can be seen on www.dundalk.ie/vouchers

It is now even more important to continue to **SUPPORT LOCAL**. Where we shop, where we eat and have fun – makes your community home. Our one-of-a-kind businesses are an integral part of the distinctive character of Dundalk and its surrounds. The scheme just launched in March of this year has generated additional sales within our local economy with just under €10,000 worth sold to date, the Chamber with the help of local companies can help secure jobs with this new initiative in Dundalk.

These Gift Vouchers are the perfect present for family and friends, allowing them the freedom to choose where and what they buy. They are valid for 2 years and come in €10, €20 or €50 denomination. The vouchers can be bought in Grants and McCuskers in Dundalk, Centra Blackrock, Sheelans Riverstown, McCrystals Jenkinstown, Valentines XL in Carlingford and Finnegans Louth Village. They can also be bought in Dundalk Chamber in Partnership Court (just across from Dundalk Lighting) and on line on www.dundalk.ie/vouchers. Michael Gaynor stressed that "Our shops and businesses will only survive if we spend locally – we need to help them achieve this by buying locally"

If you are an employer, under the Revenue Commissioners 'Small Benefit Exemption' scheme, you can provide employees with a non-cash benefit up to the value of €250 once in every tax year. This is exempt from Income Tax, Universal Social Charge (USC) and employee and employer's PRSI. The Voucher is an ideal way of using the Small Benefit Exemption to reward employees as this does not apply to cash or cheques. Vouchers are a practical and efficient way to encourage local shopping and are available all year round. So if you have someone retiring, a wedding present that needs to be bought or indeed a birthday think "Shop Local Gift Vouchers" and make sure your money is spent locally. A practical gift that will encourage and support our retail sector which in turn means supporting local jobs and the livelihoods of many in our town it is an ideal present. If you want to order them just call Dundalk Chamber Tel: 042 9336343 or email accounts@dundalk.ie There are no extra charge €100 voucher costs €100.

Press release ends

For Further information call Paddy Malone PRO Dundalk Chamber Tel: 042 9336744 or email paddy@malone.ie