

25th August 2016

***“ Shop Local Gift Vouchers off to a flying start!*”**

In their continuing promotion of Shop Local Gift Vouchers, Dundalk Chamber of Commerce President Michael Gaynor is delighted with the success of the Shop Local Gift Vouchers to date. “With over €250,000 sold to date in their first year they have been a resounding success. This initiative set up by Dundalk Chamber Of Commerce has been a resounding success. These vouchers help to keep money in the local economy and help protect local jobs. The plan is to grow sales even more for the remainder of the year.

Speaking in AIB where he was promoting the Vouchers last week he stressed that there are now 200 local shops and businesses redeeming these vouchers. They can be spent in Restaurants, Hair Salons, Gift Stores, Gyms, Beautician, Clothes shops, Gyms and much more. They are an ideal gift for occasions such as Weddings, Birthdays, Retirements, Anniversaries and Staff Rewards. The person who receives the voucher is given the gift of choice of where they can redeem them.

Michael would also encourage local companies to buy these vouchers for their staff as Christmas Bonuses as they can save 56% on staff rewards by giving employees a Shop Local Gift Voucher instead of cash. “Businesses can reward their staff with a €500 tax free payment. You are entitled to give one each and every year. Under the Small Benefits Exemption Scheme, company directors and employees can receive a non-cash bonus of up to €500 in value on a completely tax free basis each year and he would encourage all employers to but this voucher for the town as you will be spoilt for choice where you can spend them”

As the payment must be in a non-cash form, the most common way to avail of this scheme is by purchasing gift vouchers. By buying the “Shop Local Gift Vouchers” not only can you save money by taking advantage of the Government Small Benefit Exemption Scheme but it is also a fully deductible business expense for your company. If you haven’t availed of the Small Benefit Exemption Scheme so far in 2016, Michael you encourage you do so before 31st December and use Shop Local Gift Vouchers for this.

By buying these vouchers Michael said “you are keeping local jobs in Dundalk – jobs where family and friends are employed. These are helping Dundalk Retailers to stay in business, and assist with the revitalising our town”

Michael reiterated that “there is no commission on this voucher –€100 is worth €100 and costs €100 to buy. They do not lose value over time. If you want to buy vouchers you can purchase online on www.dundalk.ie/vouchers or directly from the Dundalk Chamber Offices, Unit 4 Partnership Court Park St. Dundalk (across the rd. from Dundalk Lighting) or by calling Tel: 042 9336343 or email accounts@dundalk.ie

They can also be bought in Grants in Dublin St., Cuchulainn Credit Union, Central News Clanbrassil St., McCuskers Newsagents in Earl St. Dundalk, Centra in

Blackrock, Finnegan's in Louth village, Sheelan's Riverstown, Valentines XL Carlingford and Victory's Centra in Dunleer.

To check out the full list of who are redeeming the Shop Local Gift Vouchers visit <http://www.shoplocal.dundalk.ie>

Press release ends

For further information on this press release call Paddy Malone on Tel: 042 9336744 or email paddy@malone.ie