

21st September 2018

Buy “ Shop Local Gift Vouchers” and help keep money local this Christmas!

Commenting on the announcement that there are now over 300 local shops and businesses redeeming “ Shop Local Gift Vouchers” Chamber President Pat McCormick is calling on members of the public and the business community to get behind the Shop Local Vouchers this Christmas and give them as Christmas presents to family and staff. “With over €1.5 million sold to date since they launched three years ago, they have been a resounding success” commented Pat. The Chamber started this initiative to help keep money, and protect local jobs within the local economy. The Chamber plan is to grow sales even more for the remainder of the year.”

By giving these vouchers you are giving the gift of choice as they can be spent in Toy Shops, Restaurants, Hair Salons, Travel Agents, Gift Stores, Gyms, Beautician, Clothes shops, and much more- you will be amazed with the selection of businesses now redeeming them. The vouchers now come in a €5 denomination as well as €10, €20 and €50's. They are also ideal gift for occasions such as Weddings, Birthdays, Retirements, Anniversaries and Staff Rewards. Michael mentioned that “The person who receives the voucher is given the opportunity to choose from over 300 participating shops, as to where they wish to redeem them.”

Paddy Malone PRO of Dundalk Chamber is also asking local employers to get behind this voucher scheme and give the Shop Local Gift Vouchers as the Christmas Bonus this year. Employers can save 56% on staff rewards by giving employees a Shop Local Gift Voucher instead of cash. Paddy mentioned that “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 buy this voucher for the town”.

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 would encourage you do so before 31st December 2018 and use Shop Local Gift Vouchers for this.

Paddy also stated that **Directors** of a limited company can avail of a €500 tax free payment as they are considered an employee of the business. Unfortunately this benefit does not apply to Sole traders / Partnerships however it would apply to their employees.

Pat McCormick 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 and the shops do not pay commission on them either. Pat said “ If you want to buy vouchers you can purchase online on www.dundalk.ie/vouchers or directly from the Dundalk Chamber Offices by calling Brenda on Tel: 042 9336343 or email accounts@dundalk.ie To check out the full list of outlets who are redeeming the Shop Local Gift Vouchers visit <http://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