

Dear Mr Frank Curran,

I write to you as the CEO of Sandyford Business District (SBD), which represents and provides support for businesses within SBD and those looking to relocate and invest in the area. SBD is home to some of the largest companies in the world including Microsoft, Mastercard, ICON and yet 70% of the district's makeup are SMEs. SBD is the economic centre of Dun Laoghaire Rathdown and as such needs to be protected from further, unnecessary cost increases.

SBD welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the consultation on the Local Property Tax, and we are writing to formally express our concern regarding the ongoing application of the 15% reduction to the Local Property Tax (LPT) rate in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown.

We recognise that the LPT is a significant source of funding for local services and that the Council has discretion to adjust the basic rate by up to 15% in either direction. We also acknowledge the importance of supporting households within Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown. However, we believe it is also essential to consider the wider implications of the reduction of the LPT on the local business community.

The Council has consistently applied the maximum 15% reduction to the LPT rate each year. While this may appear to benefit residential property owners, it has led to an estimated shortfall of €9.5 million in the Council's budget for 2026 alone, with a similar figure of over €9 million in 2025 and 2024. These shortfalls have, in practice, been compensated for by increases in commercial rates. Commercial rates are a major overhead and a key concern for businesses in SBD. The redistribution of funding responsibility created by the reduction of LPT is unsustainable and risks undermining the competitiveness, viability, and growth potential of local businesses.

To that end, we respectfully recommend that there should be neither an increase nor a decrease to the current basic rate and instead urge the Council to apply a neutral adjustment rate for 2027. This would prevent further exacerbating the imbalance between residential tax relief and commercial rate pressure, and it will give the Council the opportunity to assess a more sustainable and equitable funding model for the annual budget moving forward.

We appreciate the opportunity to contribute to this consultation and welcome further dialogue on this issue.

Sincerely,
Ger Corbett
CEO, Sandyford Business District

Sandyford BID Company Limited by Guarantee t/a Sandyford Business District.

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