

19<sup>th</sup> December 2011

Owen Keegan

County Manager

Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council

County Hall

Marine Road

Dun Laoghaire

Dear Owen,

Having viewed the contents of the draft budget 2012 the Sandyford Business District Association are extremely disappointed to note that it is planned not to reduce the rates multiplier for 2012. The Association are surprised to learn this as previous indications were that the rate would be reduced for 2012. The Association believes the proposal not to reduce the rates multiplier for 2012 should not be passed.

The association would like to point out that the local Authorities in Dublin are all proposing reductions in their ARV's for 2012. Dublin City are currently proposing a 1.7% reduction, Fingal a 2% reduction and Dublin South a 2.4% reduction, therefore, we are losing further ground to the Fingal County Council and South Dublin on a competitive front. The Association is concerned that this will make it increasingly difficult to attract new businesses to Sandyford and also to retain the existing businesses and employment numbers in the area.

As you are aware businesses in Sandyford and Countywide are experiencing unprecedented hardship due to the current economic recession. Commercial rates are an added burden on businesses. A decision by Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council to reduce the rates for 2012 would help to alleviate this burden for businesses in this time of unprecedented economic crisis. We urge you to reduce the rates for 2012 to support the national and international businesses located in the Sandyford District and prevent business closures.

The Association greatly values the support and commitment of Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council to members of the association and to the businesses of the Sandyford District. Notwithstanding this, at this difficult time we need the Council to go a step further and show businesses that they recognise and understand the difficult situation that prevails on the ground. A reduction in rates for 2012 would show that understanding. We need the Council to find the efficiencies and savings necessary to reduce rates.

We understand the challenges faced by the Council and the effort made in reducing rates over the last number of years but we urge you now to reduce the disproportionate burden on business and support the local, national and international businesses in the Sandyford Business District.

Yours sincerely



SBDA Chairman