**Comhairle Chontae Laoise**

 **Laois County Council**

**‘Outdoor Seating & Accessories for Tourism & Hospitality Business’ scheme to include Wet Pubs**

**PART A - GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SCHEME**

**Scheme Overview**

The focus of this scheme is to provide a level of financial support to **tourism and hospitality businesses,** in our town centres, to purchase or upgrade equipment to provide additional outdoor seating and, therefore, increase their outdoor dining capacity for the summer of 2021. This scheme will financially assist and support independent tourism and hospitality business owners to create outdoor dining experiences in a regulated and accessible manner. Funding under the scheme is only available to existing businesses.

The Outdoor Seating and Accessories for Tourism & Hospitality Business Scheme is being administered by Laois County Council. Laois County Council has the right to use its discretion in regard to the process and the development of terms and conditions that are appropriate for its respective streetscapes, businesses etc. All applicants will be required to comply with planning codes, legislative requirements and other compliance requirements.

T**he closing date for the Scheme is 30th September 2021 and this deadline cannot be extended.**

1. **Who is Eligible?**
* The scheme is open to attractions, hotels, restaurants, cafes, public houses or other tourism and hospitality business establishments where food is sold for consumption on the premises. **The scheme has now been extended to include pubs (non-food serving).**
* Those premises that have **no commercial rates outstanding** to Laois County Council or have a payment plan in place.
1. **What Items are considered eligible for the scheme.**
* Tables
* Chairs
* Umbrellas
* Electric heaters
* Screens/windbreaks
* Plant stands
* Wooden Platform

The tables and chairs or other furniture shall be of robust and stable construction to prevent movement in adverse weather conditions and be agreed with Laois County Council.

Screens/windbreakers must be agreed with Laois County Council and will be subject to the following conditions;

* Screens to be plain, coloured or neutral canvas type, not more than 1 metre high, spanning between or framed by simple metal type posts.
* Screens to be manufactured from flame/fire retardant material.
* Base plates or weighted bases to screening posts must not extend outside the licensed area.
* All screens, posts and bases must be demountable.
* Screens must be sufficiently robust to prevent overturning in adverse weather conditions.
* No advertising apart from the name of the premises to be used on the screens, without the permission of Laois County Council.
1. **Amount of Grant Available**

The scheme will provide for up to 75% of the ex-VAT cost of equipment purchased/installed with a maximum allowable contribution of up to €4,000 per applicant.

1. **De Minimis**

Grants provided under this scheme are classed as De Minimis State Aid. There is a ceiling of €200,000 for all De Minimis aid regardless of the source, given to any one enterprise or group by any state agency or public body over the last 3 years.

For more information read Chapter 3 of Failte Ireland’s State Aid Handbook [*https://www.failteireland.ie/FailteIreland/media/WebsiteStructure/Documents/2\_Develop\_Your\_Business/6\_Funding/Amended-Failte-Ireland-State-Aid-Handbook-07-03-2018-(1).pdf*](https://www.failteireland.ie/FailteIreland/media/WebsiteStructure/Documents/2_Develop_Your_Business/6_Funding/Amended-Failte-Ireland-State-Aid-Handbook-07-03-2018-%281%29.pdf)

1. **Privacy & Data Protection**

Personal information collected by Laois County Council is done so in order for us to process your application. Legally we can process this information as it is necessary for us to comply with our statutory / legal obligations. The protection of your personal data is a key priority for the Council and your data will be processed in line with our Privacy policy which is available at: [www.laois.ie](http://www.laois.ie) or hardcopy from our offices at Laois County Council, County Hall, J.F.L Avenue, Portlaoise, Co. Laois. If you require further information regarding our Privacy Statement, you can contact us at dataprotection@laoiscoco.ie or write to us at: Data Protection Officer, Laois County Council, County Hall, J.F.L Avenue, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.

1. **Applications for Funding Timeline**

The scheme will close of business on 30th September, 2021.

1. **Freedom of Information**

Applicants should be aware that, under the Freedom of Information Act 2014, information provided by them in this Application may be liable to be disclosed. Applicants are asked to consider if any of the information provided by them in their Application should not be disclosed because of its confidentiality or commercial sensitivity. If Applicants consider that certain information is not to be disclosed because of its confidentiality or commercial sensitivity, Applicants must, when providing such information, clearly identify such information and specify the reasons for its confidentiality or commercial sensitivity. If Applicants do not identify information as confidential or commercial sensitive, it is liable to be released in response to a Freedom of Information request without further notice or consultation with the Applicant. Laois County Council will, where possible, consult with the Applicant about confidential or commercial sensitive information so identified before making a decision on a request received under Freedom of Information.

1. **Section 254 Licence**

Applicants must have a Section 254 Licence from Laois County Council if the equipment/furniture is to be placed in the public domain i.e. on a Council controlled footpath, road, public plaza or green area.

 Completed application forms or questions relating to **SECTION 254 LICENCES should be sent to:**

Planning Department

Laois County Council

County Hall,

J.F.L Avenue

Portlaoise

Co. Laois

R32 EHP9

Telephone 057 8664000

Or by email to: planning@laoiscoco.ie

**Any further information requested on the ‘Outdoor Seating and Accessories for Tourism and Hospitality Scheme’ please contact by email:** **outdoordining@laoiscoco.ie**

I have read and understand the terms and conditions of the ‘Outdoor Seating & Accessories for Tourism and Hospitality Business Scheme’.

**Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Business Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Commercial Rate Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

I confirm that the commercial rates on my premises up to the end of 2019 are:

Fully paid Payment Plan in place

I hereby declare that my enterprise has not received any De Minimis aid or an amount greater that €195,000 in the last 3 years.

*Grants provided under this scheme are classed as De Minimis State Aid. There is a ceiling of €200,000 for all De Minimis aid regardless of the source, given to any one enterprise or group by any state agency or public body over the last 3 years. Please see terms and conditions above for further details.*

**Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Tel: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Signature in Capital Letters:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Please see Part B**

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**‘Outdoor Seating & Accessories for Tourism & Hospitality Business’ scheme**

***Comhairle Chontae Laoise***

**Laois County Council**

**Part B – EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FORM**

All applicants will be required to comply with planning codes, legislative requirements, and other compliance requirements.

I hereby **submit my** expression of interest for a grant under the Council Outdoor Seating & Accessories for Tourism and Hospitality Business Scheme’ 2021 for:

A) New outdoor seating & Accessories for Tourism and Hospitality – **I have applied for a Section 254 licence**

B) New/replacement outdoor seating & Accessories permitted under an **existing Section 254 licence**

Please supply relevant licence reference no.: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

C) New outdoor seating & accessories for Tourism and Hospitality for use within my own business premises
 – **no Section 254 licence is required**

Please indicate (preferably with map) your proposed location for the Outdoor Seating & Accessories:

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