



Strategic Banking
Corporation of Ireland
**Small businesses.
Big plans.**

"How Risk Sharing can help you change your business to face the challenges"

The County Carlow Chamber in partnership with the Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland have scheduled a Breakfast Briefing on 6th March 2018 to discuss several items including:

- How Risk Sharing can help your business to face the challenges
- The €300m Brexit Loan Scheme which is due for release soon

Venue: Woodford Dolmen Hotel, Kilkenny Road

Start Time: 7.30am

Date: 6th March 2018

Cost: Complimentary for members of County Carlow Chamber / €10.00 for non-members

Full Irish Breakfast will be served

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2017 was a transformative year for the Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland (SBCI). They almost doubled the number of SMEs that are benefiting from low-cost, flexible funding offerings – from 12,500 at the start of the year to 23,000 now & have now supported over €925m in SME lending, up from €544m at the start of 2017.

Growing the number and value of loans is important. But what is more important to that 2017 was also the year when the SBCI found new and better ways to support more SMEs. The SBCI were proud to deliver their first risk-sharing product, in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and the Marine, with the launch of the €150m Agri Cashflow Support Scheme.

For the first time, the SBCI itself was sharing the lending risk with other lenders and it was also the first time that the European Commission's COSME counter guarantee programme had been used in Ireland and the first time in Europe that it has been used for primary agriculture.

This resulted in the SBCI being able to help more businesses as SBCI risk-sharing means the bank is no longer taking all the risk on the loan. It makes it easier for these businesses to meet their bank's risk appetite and to borrow the funds they need to grow.

For the SBCI, this experience demonstrated in practice what they knew to be true; that there are thousands of high-quality SMEs, which are backed by ambitious, entrepreneurial owners and managers, and which can prosper if they get the right kind of support, The SBCI are delighted that they can play such a constructive role in this space.

The aim of the SBCI is to repeat the success of the Agri Cashflow Support Scheme in other areas, wherever possible. What was also notable in 2017 was the announcement in the Budget of the €300m Brexit Loan Scheme, which is due to be available early in 2018.

This will be the SBCI's second major risk-sharing programme, working with the Department of Finance, the Department of Business Enterprise and Innovation and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine to implement this scheme. They are also excited to be working with the European Investment Fund, which is expected to support the SBCI in this scheme.

