

Statutory Explanatory Notes

April 2011

What is the Southside BID?

The Southside Business Improvement District (BID) is a precisely defined geographical area within Birmingham City Centre where businesses have voted (in accordance with the Local Government Act, Business Improvement Districts (England) Regulations, 2004), to invest collectively in local improvements to enhance their trading environment.

Between the 4th October and 11th November 2010, a postal ballot of eligible business ratepayers in the proposed BID area was conducted. A total of 43% voted and of those, 82% voted by number and 85% by rateable value in favour of the proposed BID. Having secured the necessary mandate therefore, **the BID formally commenced on 1st April 2011**. Further information can be found at www.southsidebid.co.uk.

The Southside BID is Birmingham's sixth BID – joining Broad Street, Retail Birmingham, Colmore Business District, Erdington and Kings Heath BIDs.

What will the Southside BID do?

The Southside BID will provide a range of new or additional services and projects designed to improve the business environment. Details of the proposed Year One activities are set out in the approved BID Proposal document available on www.southsidebid.co.uk/proposal-document.

Briefly, the agreed programmes are:-

Southside Streets

- Cleaner, greener, brighter – deep street cleaning, floral enhancements etc.
- Safer – Street Wardens, Taxi Marshals, Business Crime Initiative
- Better connected - wayfinding and interpretation

Southside Scene

- Positive brand and profile
- Vibrant and diverse – marketing, promotion and events

Southside Synergy

- Listening and supportive – intelligence, information and networking
- Credible 'voice' – Partnership development and lobbying for Southside

Business Management

- Southside BID Manager and Assistant
- Company costs

How will the Southside BID be funded?

The BID's activities will principally be funded via a **BID levy** charge of 2% of rateable value as at 1st April 2011. This charge is payable by business ratepayers and is collected by Birmingham City Council on behalf of the Southside BID.

The funds will then be passed to **Southside Business District Limited**, a new independent and private sector led 'not for profit' company, to invest on behalf of the business community, in line with the approved BID Proposal.

The estimated total revenue to be raised from the BID levy in **2011 / 2012**, the BID's first year, is between £300,000 and £350,000. The Team will work hard throughout the BID's term, to secure further funding from other partners.

How will the Southside BID be delivered?

The BID's activities will be delivered by **Southside Business District Limited**, with a Board of Directors directly accountable to the BID levy payers.

In line with the BID Proposal, all levy payers will be invited to become members of the BID Company over the coming months.

The newly appointed **Southside BID Manager**, Julia Chance will be responsible for directing all projects and services and representing the District for the benefit of levy payers.

How has the BID levy liability been calculated?

The BID levy is charged at 2% of rateable value as at 1st April 2011 on all non-domestic properties within the BID area that are listed on the Local Non-domestic Rating List (2010).

The following will apply:-

- The annual levy will be apportioned on a daily basis where properties are taken out or brought into the rating list
- No exemptions will be granted for void or partially empty premises
- Charitable organisations in receipt of mandatory charitable relief from rates will receive an 80% allowance
- Hereditaments with rateable values below £10,000 will be exempt from the levy in the BID's first term.

The BID levy is payable for the whole year on the 1st April of each year and will be increased each year by the annual inflationary/deflationary factor for local non domestic rate bills as calculated by the Government.

As this is the first year of the BID, there is no levy income or expenditure to report for last year.

Please note that the development of the BID Proposals, consultation process and the Ballot were funded by a number of partners – as listed in the BID Proposal document.

What is the duration of the Southside BID?

The BID arrangements commenced on 1st April 2011 and will operate for five years until 31st March 2016. Before the end of this period, the Southside BID Board of Directors can promote an extension of the BID. This would require a 'Renewal Ballot' to be held.

Enquiries about payments and accounts can be made by contacting:-

Birmingham City Council
Chief Executive's Directorate
Resources Department
Revenues and Benefits Division
PO Box 6637
Birmingham
B4 7AB

Telephone: 0121 303 4963
Fax: 0121 464 0554
Email: bids@birmingham.gov.uk

Enquiries about the Southside BID and its services can be made by contacting:-

Southside Business District Limited
c/o Birmingham Hippodrome
Hurst Street
Southside
Birmingham
B5 4TB

With effect from 3rd May 2011
Telephone: 07880 714716
Email: bidmanager@southside.co.uk