

Southside District

Business Improvement District (BID) - March 2021

What is the Southside District BID?

The Southside District 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 2nd November and 11th December 2020, a postal ballot of eligible business ratepayers in the proposed BID area was conducted. A total of 43% of eligible businesses voted and of those, 96% voted by number and 97% by rateable value in favour of the BID to renew for a further five year term. Having secured the necessary mandate therefore, the BID formally renewed on 1st April 2021 until 31 March 2026. Further information can be found at www.southsidedistrict.co.uk

What does the Southside District BID do?

The Southside District BID provides a range of new and additional services and projects designed to improve the business environment. Details of our five year programme, focused on making Southside safer, brighter, cleaner and more fun for those who live, work and visit the District, can be found on our website at www.southsidedistrict.co.uk/bid-3. For a hard copy of our proposal document, please call our BID office on **0121 643 3720**.

Some of the key deliverables for our next term include:

1. Continue supporting our businesses however we can in order to enable them the best opportunity to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic. This includes providing up to date, easy to understand information on the pandemic / lockdown guidelines as well as helping businesses with access to finance and grant applications
2. Improve the public realm in Southside by investing in new and existing public spaces
3. Develop a robust transport and infrastructure strategy for Southside taking into account the wants and needs of the business and residential communities as well as those who visit the District
4. Maintain a safe and welcoming environment
5. Uphold standards of street cleanliness and where possible improve them
6. Sustain additional investment and added value
7. Make Southside greener and more environmentally friendly

8. Build on local events and their legacy
9. Establish a sense of place in Southside with on street branding
10. Collaborate with other Birmingham BIDs
11. Bring local people and businesses together with a Southside Loyalty Scheme
12. Promote 'local first' procurement

How is the Southside District BID funded?

The BID's activities are principally funded via a BID levy charge of 2% of rateable value as at 1st April 2021. This charge is payable by business ratepayers with properties which have a rateable value of £12K and above and is collected by Birmingham City Council on behalf of the Southside District BID.

The funds are then passed to Southside Business District Limited, which is an 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 2021 and 2022 is between £300,000 and £350,000. However due to the current pandemic our collection rate may well be negatively affected. The Team also works hard throughout the BID's term, to secure further funding from other partners and funding streams and aims to raise between £30K to £80K every year in private and other public sector contributions. We also work hard to signpost our businesses to grants and rates relief, so do get in touch especially if you are a new business to ensure you are getting all you are entitled to in terms of support.



How is the Southside District BID delivered?

The BID's activities are delivered by Southside Business District Limited, with a Board of Directors directly accountable to the BID levy payers. All levy payers are invited to become members of the BID Company. Please contact us if you would like to become a member.

The Southside BID Manager is 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 2021 on all non-domestic properties within the BID area that are listed on the Local Non-domestic Rating List (2015).

The following applies:-

- 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.
- Hereditaments with rateable values below £12,000 will be exempt from the levy in the BID's third 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.

What is the duration of the Southside District BID?

The BID arrangements commenced on 1st April 2021 and will operate for five years until 31st March 2026. Before the end of this period, the Southside BID Board of Directors can promote a further 5 year 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
Revenues Service
PO Box 5
Birmingham
B4 7AB
Telephone: 0121 303 5509
Email: business_rates@birmingham.gov.uk

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

Southside Business District Limited
Wynner House
143 Bromsgrove Street
Southside
Birmingham
B5 6RG
Telephone: 0121 643 3720
Email: information@southsidedistrict.co.uk

If in the event you cannot contact Birmingham City Council re payments and accounts for any reason please contact the BID on 0121 643 3720 or email information@southsidedistrict.co.uk and we will do our best to help you.

