

COLMORE BUSINESS DISTRICT

Notes in accordance with Schedule 4, The Business Improvement Districts (England) Regulations 2004

April 2022

What is Colmore Business District?

Colmore Business District is a business improvement district (BID) established to deliver improvement projects and services to the professional services and commercial quarter of Birmingham. BIDs deliver additional services to those provided by the local authority and the police. A BID is funded by businesses and organisations in the defined area through an annual **BID levy**.

Colmore BID's first term commenced on 1 April 2009 and was renewed by a ballot for a second 5-year term. This commenced on 1 April 2014 and ended on 31 March 2019. In November 2018, a third ballot was held, confirming the BID's third term, which started on 1 April 2019. Further information can be found at www.colmorebusinessdistrict.com.

How is the BID Levy Spent?

Expenditure and investment by Colmore BID is strictly undertaken in line with the approved **BID Renewal Proposal** which covers seven strategic themes:

- Business Matters
- Outstanding Places
- Accessible and Connected
- Leisure and Hospitality
- Place Marketing
- Safe and Sound
- Community Building

How is the BID Levy liability calculated?

The levy has been fixed at 1.5% of the rateable value and is applied to all non-domestic properties or hereditaments with a rateable value of £10,000 or above. Please review the Business Plan for a detailed application of the rules.

Colmore BID's Previous Year: 2021 / 2022

In 2021/22, the billing authority (Birmingham City Council) sought to collect £1,300,000 in BID levy, on behalf of Colmore BID. During this period, 88% of the levy has been collected.

In 2021/22 Colmore BID spent £1,176,000 of the BID levy in accordance with the BID Arrangements:

Business Matters	£260,000	Leisure and Hospitality	£30,000
Outstanding Places	£278,000	Safe and Sound	£171,000
Accessible & Connected	£0	Community Building	£24,000
Place Marketing	£81,000	Support Services	£332,000

Here is a selection of key achievements over the last financial year:

- Following the positive reaction to our 5 parklets in 2020, installed a further two parklets. These were decorated by a graduate of the School of Art as part of a pioneering scheme to give new artists their first commercial opportunities.

- Conducted a pioneering, research-based study into how Colmore Business District, Birmingham, and other cities might recover from the Pandemic. This unique study has produced over 30 possible activities to help develop and evolve the city centre.
- Continued to provide an on-street security and ambassador presence to provide support to businesses, vulnerable individuals, and ensure the District maintained a high standard of repair and cleanliness.
- Acted as a key consultee for Birmingham City Council on a range of transport initiatives, including e-scooters, bike hire, and the new cross city bus strategy, helping to guide their design and resolve issues for businesses.
- Delivered our project to install a new artwork on Livery Street after it was delayed by the Pandemic.
- Continued to lobby locally for on-going and improved support for Birmingham’s hospitality industry to aid their recovery from 2020.
- Produced a Greening Strategy to complement the Future Business District Research outcomes and act as a roadmap for a green, sustainable recovery from COVID 19.
- Completed our public realm works on Colmore Row East, improving the space for pedestrians and introducing measure to reduce the amount of non-essential traffic on Colmore Row.
- Created a new, outdoor event space in Victoria Square and ran a summer-long event, Summer in the Square, to support hospitality and workers returning to the office.
- Delivered over 1000 free Lateral Flow Tests to business to support reopening.
- Delivered a broad range of wellbeing activities to support remote workers, including weekly yoga, mindfulness, wellbeing fortnight and a brand new online fitness programme.
- Provided a float at Birmingham Pride, which, for the first time, allowed people from a range of businesses to march in support of the LGBTQ+ community.
- Completed our challenging public realm works on Cornwall Street, introducing traffic calming measures and new dwell spaces to support hospitality business.
- Worked with Birmingham City Council to create spill out space for businesses on Waterloo Street, supporting hospitality and demonstrating the value and impact cafe culture can have in the city centre.
- Delivered Christmas in Cathedral Square, a brand new Christmas Market featuring local artists, makers and hospitality businesses. In addition, the BID created a new brand for the city’s Christmas events, supporting the recovery and ongoing marketing of Birmingham as a Christmas destination.

This Financial Year: 2022 / 2023

In 2022/23, the billing authority (Birmingham City Council) expects to collect £1,298,000 in BID levy on behalf of Colmore BID. Through prudent financial management, the BID has been able to build a modest cash reserve. It is the intention of our Board to use these reserves to provide additional budget for this year, allowing us to increase our annual spend above our levy income.

The levy and a sum of the reserves will be spent in line with the five-year Business Plan and the budget will be approved by the Board on 30 March 2022. The draft budget (at time of print) is set as follows:

Business Matters	£141,000	Leisure and Hospitality	£93,000
Outstanding Places	£471,000	Safe and Sound	£281,000
Accessible & Connected	£15,000	Support Services	£273,000
Place Marketing	£263,000		
Community Building	£36,000	Total:	£1,573,000

Contact Information

Billing enquiries must be directed to Birmingham City Council. You can reach their business rates team on 0121 303 5509. For enquiries about Colmore BID's projects, please call the BID office on 0121 212 1410.