

COLMORE BUSINESS DISTRICT

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

April 2023

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 1.52% 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: 2022 / 2023

In 2022/23, the billing authority (Birmingham City Council) sought to collect £1,300,000 in BID levy, on behalf of Colmore BID.

In 2022/23 Colmore BID spent £1,300,000 of the BID levy in accordance with the BID Arrangements:

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|------------------------|----------|-------------------------|----------|
| Business Matters | £136,000 | Leisure and Hospitality | £46,000 |
| Outstanding Places | £308,000 | Safe and Sound | £250,000 |
| Accessible & Connected | £15,000 | Community Building | £25,000 |
| Place Marketing | £260,000 | Support Services | £260,000 |

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

- Supported the delivery of the Commonwealth Games in the city centre by working with the Organising Committee to help dress and animate the city. In partnership with Central BID, we sponsored additional live entertainment at the Victoria Square Festival site. We also delivered and

managed the catering for the Victoria Square site, the only festival site to provide food and drink from local businesses, all based in Colmore Business District.

- Delivered our now award-winning Christmas in Cathedral Square for the second time, in partnership with Birmingham City Council and Birmingham Cathedral and continued to promote the overall Christmas in Birmingham brand which we created last year.
- Continued to provide an on-street security and ambassador presence to provide support to businesses, vulnerable individuals, and recruited a dedicated cleaner 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.
- Worked with Sifa Fireside to deliver CONSTRUCT, a photography exhibition exploring homelessness, which culminated in 21 assisted self-portraits being displayed in Snow Hill Station Square
- Delivered a range of wellbeing activities throughout the year in order to support improved health outcomes in the workplace
- Held our monthly Network and Drink events giving people a chance to meet in an informal setting at business across the District and providing updates on current issues.
- Provided a float at Birmingham Pride, which allowed people from a range of business to march in support of the LGBTQ+ community.
- Delivered our first ever “Welcome to Birmingham”, a series of information and networking events designed to showcase the benefits of working in the District to those who had recently joined.
- Printed three editions of our Colmore Life magazines and two versions of our District Guide; one for the Commonwealth Games and one for Christmas.

This Financial Year: 2023 / 2024

In 2022/23, the billing authority (Birmingham City Council) expects to collect £1,300,000 in BID levy on behalf of Colmore BID. Our levy usually increases in line with inflation, however, we recognize that inflation is at historic, and exceptional levels. We will not be applying an inflation-based uplift to the BID Levy this year.

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 | £156,000 | Leisure and Hospitality | £151,000 |
| Outstanding Places | £370,000 | Safe and Sound | £284,500 |
| Accessible & Connected | £18,500 | Support Services | £290,500 |
| Place Marketing | £151,000 | | |
| Community Building | £31,000 | Total: | £1,452,500 |

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.