

Q2News

BID acts to strengthen team as Chair declares city centre open for business



Martin Foster, working to create a cleaner city centre.

HullBID is setting out to strengthen its support for city centre businesses and help them prepare to maximise the benefits of a transformational year ahead.

The BID team is looking to appoint new recruits to the staff and the board as it works with other partners to harness the opening of Castle Street, the launch of the Hull Maritime project and the completion of Humber Dock Street and declare the city centre open for business.

Jim Harris, Chair of the HullBID board, said action has already been taken with the return of Martin Foster, BID's Cleaning and Maintenance Operative.

In addition Senior Support Officer Mark Andrews and Operations and Business Support Officer Raich Orr continue to work very effectively with Hull City Council and Humberside Police to tackle anti-social behaviour and low level crime.

As Business Liaison Officer, Francesca Sharp is leading on building relations and communicating with members.

After the departure of Kathryn Shillito, who stepped down in March, the team is taking a proactive approach to review and strengthen the support for city centre businesses while the BID board explores recruitment options.

Jim said: "We are extremely grateful to Kathryn for all her efforts for HullBID over the years and we are now considering how best to move forward. We have an excellent team of people who are recognised and welcomed throughout the city centre business community, and we want to make sure we support them in their roles.

"Our first step was to bring back Martin to resume the vital job of

cleaning the streets, alcoves, alleyways and doorways and removing graffiti – often before people even arrive at their premises in the morning.

"It's of huge importance to our city centre – for the people who work here, the visitors supporting our shops, bars and restaurants, and the people coming to enjoy our attractions – and that's a key area this year."

Jim added that the HullBID Awards underlined the importance of the organisation in working to create a safer, cleaner, vibrant environment.

Guests including Coun Mike Ross, Leader of Hull City Council, and Hull West and Haltemprice MP Emma Hardy spoke of HullBID's value in bringing businesses together and connecting them with key decision makers.

Robert Jackson, co-founder with his brother Anthony of headline sponsors KFM Recruitment and Maytree, which operates four bars in the Old Town, highlighted the transformation of the city's reputation.

He said: "We feel very passionate about HullBID as our businesses are all in the city centre. We've watched the city progress from being slated as the worst place to live in the UK nearly 25 years ago to the present day – listed by National Geographic as one of the top 25 places to visit in the world this year."

Jim said: "This is the best year we have had certainly since Covid and now we have the completion of the A63 roadworks and the opening of the Maritime Hull attractions.

"Investment like this coming to fruition is massive and we all need to work together to protect it – and increase it. These developments show we are open for business!"

HullBID Introducing

Tiny taqueria turns up heat with expansion

A restaurant which started as the UK's smallest taqueria in the K2 car park office at the Maltings is now serving its authentic cowboy food at four sites in Hull city centre, with a takeaway service to boot!

Food for Cowboys still operates at the old ticket office in Bond Street where it began in 2024 and also delivers its dishes to the nearby BREW café bar.

The main restaurant occupies two floors with the main dining area upstairs and kitchen bar seating on the ground floor, with service also available in the White Hart pub next door.

A finalist in the food and drink category of the 2026 HullBID Awards, Food for Cowboys is the brainchild of Tarik Bolton.

Born and bred in Bransholme, Tarik is a self-taught



chef who worked around the UK before returning to Hull to start his own venture. From very humble beginnings, Tarik's desire to make his high-quality food accessible to as many people as possible is a key part of the business's vision.

Everything is made using authentic Mexican methods that have been extensively researched and perfected. The chefs make the cheese, tortillas, and signature sauces themselves, in-house, daily. The majority of the menu is gluten free, and there are multiple vegetarian, vegan and halal options to choose from.

The drinks offer including carefully selected tequilas and a constantly changing wine list. Cocktails focus on a small batch of artisanal spirits from Mexico, includes gins made from native botanicals, and corn whiskeys. There is also a growing number of alcohol-free alternatives.

To find out more about opening times and menus visit www.food4cowboys.com



Middle Child present first play in new home

A theatre company which was founded in Hull 15 years ago will celebrate the opening of its new premises in Humber Street with a new play.

Isabelle, which follows a Hull family divided over inheritance, will run from 15-31 May and is the first to be written by Marc Graham, one of the founder members of Middle Child.

The play will be the first to be performed in Middle Child's studio theatre at 69 Humber Street, a former recording studio and then salon which the company has been converting since moving in last summer.

The building work has been made possible with support from Wykeland, Hull City Council, Invest Hull, DCMS Create Growth and the Equity Charitable Trust.

Marc said: "In 2011, eight actors and a director

started Middle Child. I did not for a second think that this would be happening 15 years down the road. I feel very honoured that my play will now open our new theatre on Humber Street."

The new play was originally commissioned as a 30-minute piece by Middle Child and Wykeland at Fresh Ink: Hull Playwriting Festival 2024. It reflects the company's commitment to investing in local people and providing opportunity without having to leave the city.

Middle Child's progress has seen the company become a registered charity, an Arts Council England national portfolio organisation and receive significant support from Hull City Council. It is also a Resident Company of the National Theatre and, with the support of its "Middle Child Mates" is on a mission to become "the most influential theatre outside of London".

To find out more about Middle Child and to book tickets for Isabelle visit www.middlechildtheatre.co.uk

New Ramdens store supports local charity

A UK-wide financial services provider and retailer has opened its 171st store in Hull city centre with the creation of five jobs.

Core services at Ramdens in King Edward Street are foreign currency exchange, jewellery retail, pawnbroking and gold buying. The new store is fitted with display cases for new and preowned jewellery and also has privacy counters designed with discretion in mind for customers discussing financial services.

To reinforce its commitment to the local community, the store is collecting spare change, obsolete currency, and unspent foreign coins in aid of The Preston Road Women's Centre, which offers a safe space for local women and their children and provides a range of services to help them rebuild

their lives after crisis. Customers can contribute by donating coins in store.

Mark Sterrett, Area Manager at Ramdens, said: "We're delighted to open our third store in Hull and to be part of such a vibrant and welcoming community. As well as creating new jobs in the area, we're committed to making a positive impact and to help people - whether that's by offering financial services that people can trust, offering great transparent rates on foreign currency, a fabulous range of quality jewellery and watches or supporting The Preston Road Women's Centre."

Andy Gooder, Regional Manager at Ramdens, added: "The new store is off to a great start and is performing very well across all our core services. We continue to grow our store footprint, bringing Ramdens to more communities - not just as a business, but as a trusted retailer shoppers can rely on."

Ramdens is open from 9am until 5pm Monday to Saturday and 11am until 4pm on Sundays.



HullBID Introducing

The Hull Studio open to all as media resource

Two friends who founded a film making company nearly 20 years ago have sharpened their focus on building a reputation as Hull and Humber's media partner by purchasing their own building which will be open to all.

Joe Sargieson and Jonathan Fell have refurbished and fitted out the property at the Maltings development in Hull city centre as The Hull Studio.

JayJay Media, the company they founded together in 2008, is the host tenant and will operate a facility designed to build industry capacity across the region.

JayJay Media's offices and five full-time permanent staff will occupy the mezzanine first floor with their production of film, photography, animations and podcasts. On the ground floor, The Hull Studio will provide agencies, media companies and freelancers working in the creative industries with everything they need under one roof.

The main studio has the height for programmable lighting and custom set backdrops. An adjoining



Joe Sargieson (left) and Jonathan Fell outside The Hull Studio.

kitchen and storage area will be converted to create a green room to support live performances. Wi-fi, parking and level access all add to the attributes, with technical and creative expertise including post-production services all available in-house.

Joe said: "In the past we struggled to find appropriate studio space in Hull so it's been our ambition for

some time to create a facility for ourselves which we could also make available to benefit others in the region as a resource.

"We kept seeing creatives have to compromise – going to a photographic studio where the audio didn't work, or to a radio studio which wasn't designed for film."

JayJay Media's client list includes businesses ranging from local SMEs to FTSE100 brands, and public bodies working in local government, health and education.

The new space will offer big media facilities, technology and expertise and also support bite-sized sessions designed to suit mini projects and small firms and start-ups, whether they are behind or in front of the cameras.

Jonathan said: "We have the space to create a comfortable, client-friendly environment which is close to the BBC, Hull College, and STEAM Studios at the Ron Dearing UTC. They can be a catalyst to accelerate the creation of a Hull media village, attracting other businesses into this corner of the city centre.

Solid gold rock and roll – and royalty

A new store in Hull city centre is offering solid gold mementos of royalty and rock stars to people looking to turn their passions into prized investments.

Big Gold Bullion, which has opened in Jameson Street, is also offering services as a specialist jeweller for those looking to buy or sell gold, bullion, and a variety of precious metals and Turkish jewellery.

Omer Ozer, manager of the shop, heads a team of four people and reports strong interest in buying and selling.

He said: "There were so many people round here looking to buy Turkish style jewellery but not many people sell it. Also there are not many shops specialising in bullion and displaying what they have.

"We bring in 14 carat jewellery from Istanbul and we bring bullion from the UK and Ireland, all priced by the gramme. We get good feedback from our customers. It's jewellery for them to wear and it's a good investment as well."

Items in the cabinets include bullion bearing images of Queen Victoria and the Queen Elizabeth 2 ocean liner. Elvis Presley and Elton John feature in the gold bullion rock star collection and the shop also has silver items featuring classic cars and a silver box bearing the names of Kings of England over the years.

Omer said: "There are items relevant to all sorts of interests and people are welcome to come in and see if there is anything for them".

Big Gold Bullion is open Monday to Saturday from 10:00am until 5:00pm and has a wheelchair-accessible entrance. The store accepts major credit and debit cards, as well as contactless payments.



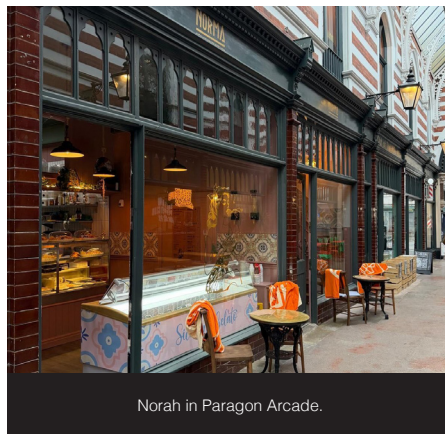
Big Gold Bullion in Jameson Street.

A taste of Sicily in new city centre restaurant

A new Italian eatery in Hull city centre is offering pasta and focaccia on the go by day and an intimate restaurant service in the evening, with diners already responding enthusiastically to the authentic taste of Sicily.

Norma, which occupies two floors in Paragon Arcade, serves a selection of pasta, sauces and toppings alongside a variety of focaccia bread from 11am until 5pm Tuesday to Saturday.

Other daytime delights include salads, arancino, burrata and polpetta, and diners have the option to take their food away or take it upstairs to cosy, the 50 seat restaurant.



Norma in Paragon Arcade.

From 5pm until 9pm or later on Thursday, Friday and Saturday the upstairs becomes Norma Trattoria, serving antipasti, pasta and a small plates menu featuring meatballs, stracciatella and more plus a range of select Sicilian wines.

Chaz Moore, a member of the staff at Norma, said the eight-strong team have all worked at the company's Santi restaurants elsewhere in the city and are enjoying bringing something new to the city centre.

He said: "All the food is freshly made authentic Sicilian cuisine and is proving very popular – especially the desserts. Brioche con gelato is a favourite and our tiramisu has been trending on TikTok!"

Q2 Report

City centre business community celebrating in style at HullBID Awards 2026



Celebrating success – the HullBID awards finalists.

An audience of more than 300 people from the city centre business community generated an electric atmosphere as they celebrated together at the HullBID Awards 2026.

In his introductory speech, HullBID chair Jim Harris said: "The awards celebrate what's fantastic about our city centre – the businesses, the people and the atmosphere which is completely unique."

Winners, finalists and sponsors

Innovation Award sponsored by AaGlobal Language Services
 Winner: Federation of Sport.
 Finalists: Artisan Flowers, and Hull College and HEY! Volunteering.

The Best Place to Work Award sponsored by St Stephen's
 Winner: Wilkin Chapman Rollits.
 Finalists: Holiday Inn Express (Foremost Hotels) and Hudgell Solicitors.

Longevity Award sponsored by Hays Travel.
 Winner: The Lantern Restaurant.
 Finalists: Gough & Davy and Leonard Silver.

Contribution to the Community Award sponsored by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Humberside
 Winner: Hull 4 Heroes.
 Finalists: Hull Truck Theatre and Wescot Credit Services.

The Best in Food and Drink Award sponsored by Hull Trains
 Winner: Swine & Soul.
 Finalists: Food for Cowboys and Hearth Restaurant and Bakery.

Stylish or Welcoming Premises Award sponsored by Hull City Council
 Winner: Calla.
 Finalists: Andrew Earles Holidays and The Focus Group.

Customer Service Excellence Award sponsored by HSBC.
 Winner: Hull Schools Library Service.
 Finalists: B Cooke & Son Ltd and Wescot Credit Services.

Commitment to Health and Wellbeing Award sponsored by Segal's Jewellers
 Winner: Pagabo Group.
 Finalists: C4DI, and Eric Davies of St Stephen's Shopping Centre.

Outstanding Employee or Team Award sponsored by East Yorkshire Buses
 Winner: Ben Beal of Segal's Jewellers.
 Finalists: Deborah Millar of Hull College, and F R Scott Ltd.

Outstanding Contribution Award sponsored by KFM Recruitment
 Winner: ResQ.
 Finalists: Eclectic Music and the Ferens Art Gallery.

Judges' Special Recognition Award
 Winner: Shaun Casson, Anti-social Behaviour Officer for Hull City Council.

Headline Sponsor



Reception Drinks Sponsor



Entertainment Sponsor



Stephens



Specialist Lighting & Table Decoration Sponsor



After Party Sponsor



Category Sponsors



Programme Sponsor



Design Sponsor



Drinks Sponsor



Music Sponsor



News

Latest figures show PSPO is bringing a safer city centre

Hull City Council and Humberside Police have reported a significant and measurable improvement in working with partners to tackle anti-social behaviour (ASB) and low level crime in the city centre during the first 12 months of the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO).

The partners are now working to bring further improvements by sharing information and resources to make more people aware of the PSPO and to show city centre businesses how they can help.

The PSPO was launched in March 2025 and the latest figures show that during the first year action was taken against 67 young people involved in anti-social behaviour. Measures included visiting



HullBID Operations and Support Officer Raich Orr with officers from Hull City Council and Humberside Police.

them at home and speaking with parents, signing up to Acceptable Behaviour Contracts, and serving banning letters, Withdrawal of Implied Permission notices on behalf of businesses, and

Community Protection Notice Warnings to address their behaviour.

Other action included:

102 Police High Vis Patrols carried out over and above normal duties.

42 Youth Engagement and Enforcement patrols completed at peak times with partners.

25 Community Protection Notices issued to adults.

22 Community Protection Notice Warnings issued to adults.

18 Police Plain Clothes Patrols carried out over & above normal duties.

13 Patrols completed by trained drug dogs & police.

In addition the PSPO has been used 1,158 times to tackle street drinking, begging and loitering in the city centre since its introduction in March 2025.

New CEO outlines plans to open up gallery to businesses

The new CEO and Artistic Director of Humber Street Gallery is working to strengthen links with artists and the creative community and also develop relationships with the business community to broaden the audience.

Dave McLeavy will also lead a programme of change – including reshaping the space – to open up the building to a wider range of activities.

Dave took up his post in February. He has previously worked with Absolutely Cultured as Curator, leading the creative programme at the gallery between 2021 and 2022, and has remained closely connected to its work as an audience member and supporter in the years since

He said: "We want to change the way our building

functions. Historically we have had lots of quite large exhibition spaces and event spaces and we are trying to change that and make different types of space.

"We're planning bookable space for the events community and bookable office space or interesting awaydays or workshops creating space to do that in an alternative venue.

"We are also making physical changes to attract the business community. For example our offices on the first floor were built for 30 people and we now have nine, so we are looking to create conference space and offer interesting and affordable options for the business community, SME community, voluntary sector."

The changes are linked to the gallery's Stay Curious programme, which was taking shape before Dave's return to Hull.

He said: "It's about understanding what is the driving force behind a lot of the arts organisations and the present needs that make people ask



Dave McLeavy in Humber Street Gallery.

questions and give them new experiences. Always questioning things and providing new ideas.

"Building work will be going on in the coming months with a view to relaunching the building in May. We'll be inviting people to come and take a look."

Business Centre staff and clients celebrate milestone

Business Centre @ The Deep brought together staff and clients to celebrate the milestone of 25 years since the keys were collected for the site.

The Business Centre launched as a start-up in 2000 with Freya Cross, The Deep's Head of Business & Corporate, operating from an office in Ferensway overseeing the installation of state-of-the-art communications facilities and contacting prospective tenants.

The Business Centre opened to clients the following year and Freya said several resident clients remain, having grown and expanded over the years thanks to the continued assistance of the dedicated Business Centre team.

Since 2001, Business Centre @ The Deep has supported 124 business start-ups and has been



Freya Cross (centre) with colleagues Pauline Fogg (left) and Sue Waterhouse.

the location of choice for 108 new regional, national and international offices in the city. In total, the centre has supported the growth of 319 companies since opening.

During 2025, six new organisations arrived including resident and virtual clients, as well as local, national and international businesses. In addition, 488 individual bookings were made in 2025 for more than 2,545 hours of meetings, interviews, training days and conferences.

Freya said: "We are so proud to be celebrating this incredible milestone with our thriving business community."

"It is a special feeling to be sharing this significant occasion with so many amazing organisations, both small and large, resident and virtual, and to say a huge thank you for all of their support."

Andy Medcalf, Product Manager at Wipro, said: "As the longest serving tenant I've had the privilege of seeing The Deep Business Centre grow from the day it opened into the thriving varied employment hub it is today."

"Freya and her friendly team have supported me throughout that entire journey with stability, community, and countless fond memories which have made it easy to stay rooted."

Award-winning chef joins Jubilee Central for exciting venture

A charity has opened the doors of its city centre community coffee shop after its long-awaited completion of the £650,000 transformation of a former bank.

Jubilee Central Ltd, part of Jubilee Church in Hull, plans to use revenue generated from The Living Room to support its work helping long-term unemployed people back into employment.

It hopes the wider community – including the corporate sector – will be inspired in the same way as chef Nick Hill, who has been tempted back into the kitchen after closing his award-winning Hispanist restaurant early in 2025.

Nick opened his restaurant in Paragon Arcade in

2019 and battled through the lockdowns to earn successive listings in the Good Food Guide Top 100 Local UK restaurants and to win the food and drink category of the 2023 HullBID Awards.

But he called it a day after what he described as the rising physical and mental toll of fighting rocketing costs and dwindling customer spending power.

He said: "I see this as a blank canvas with plenty of room for creativity and we want it to be something different for the city centre."

Jubilee Central's services include a "life college" to teach skills including cooking on a budget, English, exercise classes, craft groups and more. Businesses and other organisations can use spaces ranging from small meeting rooms to the 598-capacity main auditorium. The coffee shop has 60 seats with a modern design and modern cuisine

Casey Fawcett, Coffee Shop Manager at Jubilee Central, said: "We want to train people who are currently unemployed and use the partnerships



Casey Fawcett (left) and Nick Hill in The Living Room.

we are developing to get them into employment."

Nick has created a menu "in the breakfast and brunch style of the coffee houses of Los Angeles or Australia."

He added: "We've got all sort of ideas but we'll start with 9am to 3pm Tuesday to Saturday, maybe some private bookings, and find out what we're capable of."

Calla planning stylish welcome for next HullBID Supper Club

The winner of the Most Stylish and Welcoming category at this year's HullBID Awards will show off its surroundings and cuisine as the venue for our next supper club.

Calla, which is on the corner of Whitefriargate and Parliament Street, will host HullBID's guests at 5.30 for 5.45 on Wednesday 29 April.

The HullBID Supper Club was launched in 2024 at Bilocca – the training restaurant at Hull College – with the aims of supporting the city centre's hospitality businesses and bringing together the wider membership for networking opportunities.



Calla, the award-winning HullBID Supper Club venue.

Guests have been able to try a variety of city centre restaurants including Furlay & Co, the Marco Pierre White Restaurant at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, and most recently Cuban Pete's and enjoy discounted menus and a complimentary welcome drink.

Calla will offer a different experience again. Named after the Calla Lily, Calla offers hot drinks, cocktails, breakfast, bottomless brunches, lunch and evening meals in a setting which features padded booth seating, a pergola, botanical foliage and even a large ornate bird cage.

Francesca Sharp, HullBID Business Liaison Officer, said: "This isn't just dinner, it's a chance to connect, whether you're looking to expand your network, meet like-minded people or simply enjoy a memorable evening out, the Supper Club offers the perfect setting.

"These events are all about bringing our community together, supporting local businesses and showcasing everything that makes dining out in Hull city centre so special. Spaces always fill quickly, so we recommend you securing your place early."

To find out more about the HullBID Supper Club and to book contact Francesca@hullbid.co.uk



Chair's statement Jim Harris, HullBID Chairman

As the weather slowly improves and I get more time to chat to city centre businesses, the topic that dominates our conversations is city centre security and particularly anti-social behaviour.

It is great, therefore, to be able to highlight the positive results that are coming from the newly established Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO). At the heart of this new system is the dynamic partnership between HullBID, Hull City Council and Humber-side Police. In addition to strengthening awareness and action against unwanted activity around the city, it enables individual businesses to report their issue and know something will be done about it.

Got a question?

For more information about how to share your news or ideas, email francesca@hullbid.co.uk or call on 07719 519314

www.hullbid.co.uk

The HullBID team

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