

HullBID

For a positively
thriving city

VOTE YES!

TO KEEP HULLBID AS A VITAL ASSET
FOR YOUR BUSINESS



Vote Yes for a city on the up



Dear colleagues,

So here we are after two decades of HullBID, embarking on another ballot to keep the services which have supported businesses in the city centre for 20 years. As Chair of HullBID I'm asking you to vote YES.

I'm grateful for the support of all the businesses which have contributed testimonials for this brochure to highlight some of the ways in which HullBID has helped them, and to the many others who we just couldn't fit in! If we could produce it in audio book form, it would sound much like the electric atmosphere of the awards celebration in February!

Inside this brochure you'll find details of how HullBID has supported businesses over the last 20 years and a guide to our plans and costs for the next five years. You'll see photographs showing how the city centre has changed dramatically for the better, with the promise of more to come.

You'll also see feedback from our members' businesses plus a glowing recommendation from National Geographic. Top 25 destinations in the world for 2026? It doesn't get more official than that!

If you look behind any business in the city centre you'll find evidence of how HullBID has helped them.

Owners, managers, staff and customers will tell you about the huge importance of investing to make sure the city centre is a safe and clean place to visit, whether for work, rest or play.

They'll share their experiences of the valuable and essential work carried out by the HullBID team, such as clearing the sort of waste Martin has to deal with at the crack of dawn to ensure the streets, walls and doorways are clean for people arriving at work.

Or interacting with people committing antisocial behaviour, and trying to prevent a situation escalating and posing a threat to businesses and the staff and people within them.

And then there are the fantastic events, from exclusive, discounted supper clubs to the spectacular awards night and the family fun of Dino Day, which every year brings in around 8,000 people to support city centre businesses.

Without HullBID, there is no one to deliver these vital services and crowd-pulling events.

There's so much at stake and we can't afford to be complacent so, for the first time since our launch in 2006, we're asking you to contribute a slightly increased levy to help us invest even more in our city and your business.

We've been working with some of you since day one. Many others have joined over the years, encouraged by the business friendly city centre environment. The feedback tells us they share the view that HullBID is a precious business asset and worth every penny.

We have a passionate HullBID team and an amazing city centre business community so to ensure we keep it please vote YES!

With warmest regards,
Jim Harris, Chair, HullBID.



Humber Business Week puts Hull's city centre front and centre, bringing businesses into venues across the city and showcasing what Hull has to offer. This year with so many events taking place across the city during Biz Week, HullBID's role in keeping the city centre safe, clean and thriving was more important than ever.

Pat Coyle, Chair, Humber Business Week.



Our businesses have always been in the heart of the city centre and we need to keep hold of HullBID because without them so many things which support businesses in the city centre would not happen. We place a high value on an organisation which keeps the city centre operating safely and successfully, and we are trying to encourage other businesses to do the same.

Robert Jackson, Director, KFM Recruitment Limited and Maytree Catering Limited.



A global star



There's a defiant spirit here that's hard to resist. Thanks to a major regeneration program that's coming to fruition in 2026, the city's grand clutch of architectural gems has been polished, and its seafaring past is being brought to life in revamped museums, docks, preserved ships, and public spaces. On weekends, its 1940s Fruit Market, dock warehouses, and 19th century Paragon and Hepworth Arcades now become a haven for restaurant diners, coffee sippers, and art lovers.

National Geographic, Best of the World, 2026.



Our vision

As an independent, not-for-profit organisation with no political allegiances, HullBID's vision has always been to build and support a community of city centre businesses and to partner with the providers of public services to identify and deliver the action needed to improve the area.

Over the years our focus has sharpened to meet the evolving needs of businesses which themselves are striving to create a modern, dynamic city centre that looks after its people and places.

Our services include working to support Humberside Police and other agencies to keep the city centre safe and clean. The confidence which stems from that supports a wide ranging programme of activities by HullBID and various other stakeholders.

At the heart of the events programme is close interaction with the business community to raise awareness of the remarkable offer we have in the city centre, generating footfall on the day and inspiring people to make return visits.

The "Top 25" report by National Geographic is welcome recognition of our amazing attributes and our prominence on the global stage. Such accolades are hard won and easily lost, so please vote YES and let's all work together to project – and protect – that glowing reputation.

A trusted partner

Any business owner will tell you they're never far away from the next challenge. During the last 20 years we've seen plenty as a business community, and by taking a partnership approach we've overcome all of them. That gives us the experience and know-how to do it again.

Our starting point is never to take our business members for granted. We earned your trust in 2006 when the toughest task was to convince city centre businesses to put their faith in a brand new organisation. We built on that through successive ballots in 2011 and 2016.

Five years ago we faced the biggest threat of all, with businesses reeling from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. HullBID was there throughout to support its members with safety, security and cleaning more important than ever, and with greater urgency around the need for communication.

HullBID was the key conduit to Hull City Council, Humberside Police and other agencies as it helped city centre businesses operate safely and secure access to much-needed government funding.

We still face economic concerns but we do that buoyed by massive investment in making our city centre stand out as a destination for business, leisure, heritage, culture and more. HullBID is the partner you can trust to maximise the benefits to the full.



City of Hull Street Angels play a hugely important role in helping people feel safe and supported within Hull's evening and night-time economy. Our volunteers are out in all weather conditions offering practical help, reassurance and a visible presence that genuinely makes a difference. Our work helps build confidence for people visiting Hull's pubs, bars, clubs and restaurants, knowing there are caring volunteers on hand if needed. Our continued support from HullBID has been incredibly important in helping Street Angels sustain and grow this work. Strong partnerships like this are vital in creating a city centre that feels welcoming, safe and supportive for everyone.

Jamie Lewis, Chair, City of Hull Street Angels.



Open for business

The road signs direct drivers to the city centre, theatres and the station. The next junction points them to the Fruit Market, Old Town and The Deep.

The story behind them is that after six years the queues and closures on Castle Street are consigned to history. Follow the routes and you discover the investment and innovation – much of it by local companies – which declares Hull city centre open for business!

Five years ago HullBID's priority in embarking on a new term was to help the city centre emerge from the devastation of the pandemic. Now it's all about how to maximise the benefits of investment worth hundreds of millions of pounds.

Allenby Commercial have opened Monocle after transforming a 1970s office block into a stunning, modern symbol of the company's confidence in Hull. Wykeland has completed its C4DI development as a key element in its regeneration of the Fruit Market, and the company has also revealed plans for a £25m Marriott group hotel opposite the Connexin Live Arena.

We've got new shops, bars, and restaurants as well as stylish residential developments which will increase the number of people living in the city centre. The spectacular Hull Maritime project is an amazing addition to our tourism portfolio. It all adds up to an irresistible opportunity for city centre businesses, because nothing breeds success like confidence.



Since the first HullBID ballot 20 years ago the city has faced uphill battles, but the progress in the last five years is undeniable. The completion of C4DI has triggered massive inward investment, proving there is real confidence here. At C4DI, we're keeping talent in the city - from mentoring children in our Academy to helping local startups scale up. Through BID's community events and support, we're seeing the growth that makes Hull the place to be.

Tina Swann, Community Engagement Manager, C4DI.



Monocle, our landmark six-storey building right next to the transport interchange, opened during summer 2025 as Hull's most modern premium and functional office space and as a statement of our continuing confidence in the city centre. We've also got the Victorian retail style of Paragon Arcade, the Hideout Hotel, and many businesses spaces such as Danish Buildings, Chariot House, Minster Corner and much more. It all adds up to a significant investment, and we're so grateful to HullBID for their support in creating the safe, secure and vibrant business environment in which we operate.

Georgia Allenby, Director, Allenby Commercial.



C4DI



CGI of the Marriott group hotel



The new-look Queen's Gardens



There's a clear resurgence of interest in investing and retailers looking at taking premises in Queens House and that's a positive reflection of all the hard work of various partners including Hull City Council, Humberside Police and HullBID to create a welcoming ambience.

Richard Henderson, Regional Facilities Manager for M Core at Queens House.



Safe, secure & clean

The top priority

The huge investment in regenerating the city centre is all geared to bringing in more benefits for business.

Making it a more attractive and appealing place for people to work, explore our wonderful variety of shops, bars and restaurants, enjoy the heritage locations from the free museums and galleries to the new Hull Maritime heritage sites. The Deep remains an award-winning jewel in the UK's tourism crown nearly 25 years after opening its doors. We have a vibrant arts and culture scene and the sympathetic renovation of old buildings to create new residential opportunities is pulling in more people to make the city centre their home, bringing a further boost for business.

All of that also brings a huge responsibility to look after our streets, buildings, public spaces, pavements, doorways and alleyways and – above all – the people who use them. HullBID has always worked hard to keep our city centre safe, secure and clean because we know that's the number one priority for our business community.

HullBID is recognised as a key partner of Hull City Council and Humberside Police. The result of the combined efforts is a beautiful city centre which offers a bright, blank canvas for event organisers to operate at their creative best, whether it's for Freedom Festival, Humber Street Sesh or Colliderfest. A city that can welcome 30,000 rugby league or football fans for exhilarating trophy celebrations at only 48 hours' notice. Only a safe, clean, vibrant city centre can do that.

Cleaning commitment

Long before most workers arrive in the city centre to begin their daily routine HullBID's Cleaning & Maintenance Operative, Martin Foster, is already out there, tackling the most challenging cleaning tasks with passion and pride.

A familiar face to business people across the city centre, Martin starts his day removing waste, often extremely unpleasant, left in the streets, doorways and alleyways, from the activities of revellers and rough sleepers.

He'll then set about power washing the streets and passageways, diligently removing dirt which has fallen from buildings or been deposited by inconsiderate passers-by.

Martin is also highly skilled in removing graffiti from walls, hoardings, phone boxes, wherever it appears.

He does all of this with maximum effectiveness and minimum fuss. Sometimes he'll post a card through your door to let you know he's cleared a problem, but often he'll just head off to the next job.



HullBID's Cleaning & Maintenance Operative, Martin Foster, removing waste and graffiti.

We have always had a good relationship with the HullBID team. They have always supported us when we have called for assistance and they have great knowledge of the city centre and the people, which can be very helpful when it comes to dealing with antisocial behaviour. It's good to have HullBID there as back-up. We use the BID radio in both our city centre stores and that helps us be proactive when problems arise.

Mike Sweeney, Store Manager, Boyes, Prospect Centre, with Mark Andrews.



We are out on patrol with the HullBID team pretty much daily and they have a really good presence. Their knowledge of the retailers and what's going on in the city centre is invaluable. The PSPO has had a very positive impact and we'll be working together to raise awareness of how to use it and to develop a new 'business watch' system to expand what we do in partnership with Hull City Council and HullBID

Insp Dave Lonsdale (right) and Sgt Lee Waller.



A partnership approach

HullBID plays a huge part in supporting the Public Space Protection Order, or PSPO. Launched in March 2025, the scheme brought rapid results with Hull City Council and Humberside Police reporting a significant and measurable improvement in tackling anti-social behaviour (ASB) and low level crime in the city centre.

The PSPO is only part of the story, with HullBID's Senior Support Officer Mark Andrews and Operations & Support Officer Raich Orr patrolling the streets and strengthening crucial relationships with businesses on the way.

Every action taken under the PSPO is deterring other potential offenders, and 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.



We have had great support from HullBID in terms of rapid response to deal with antisocial behaviour and the mess that can result from that. BID also informs us of things happening in the city that are of interest to businesses and it helps us get in touch with people who can support our community commitments.

Lauren Hughes, Store Manager, Tesco, St Stephen's, with Raich Orr.



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

Every action taken under the PSPO is deterring other potential offenders, and 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.



Roaring success



The support we get from the HullBID security team is invaluable. It's reassuring for our team and our customers that the area is being managed, especially when it comes to antisocial behaviour and shop theft. Safe, clean streets are essential for attracting people into the city centre which is so important because we are very much focused on good experiences and events. The programme that HullBID has created – particularly Dino Day and Superhero Day – have had a huge impact in terms of footfall and bringing families into the city centre.

Ben Garner, Store Manager, Lush.



Dino Day

Dino Day 2026 will be HullBID's first big event after the ballot. Now in its fifth year, Dino Day has delivered "roarsome" returns for businesses across the city centre by attracting an estimated 8,000 crowd to King Edward Street at Queen Victoria Square.

The benefits are felt much further, with families making the most of the free entertainment and able to spend their money on food, drink, bits of shopping and the treats that come with a great day out. That's fantastic news for businesses in the city centre, and it's why Dino Day has become a firm favourite and especially with Chopstix noodle bar. They reported: "Business was astronomical and people within the company were checking our systems because they couldn't understand what was happening – they were concerned there might be an error."



HullBID Awards

The HullBID Awards made their first appearance in 2014 and have grown beyond recognition as businesses have seized the opportunity to be their best to beat tough competition, and to look their best at the spectacular gala dinner.

It is the only awards scheme exclusively for city centre businesses and it has brought benefits across the board – businesses have improved what they do, they re-connect with old friends and make new ones, and together they raise awareness of the quality of our city centre. The 2026 celebration night was hailed as the best yet – so vote YES to make sure we can do it again in 2027.



What's next?

HullBID has been delivering a vibrant programme of events for the last 20 years with each of them geared to increase footfall in the city centre and inspire businesses, individually and collectively, to organise their own activities which BID promotes locally and much further afield through its partnerships and its communication channels.

We've held food festivals, street food nights, live music in public squares and city centre bars. A current big favourite is the regular supper club helping to support the hospitality sector and provide important opportunities for getting together to share business intelligence or just unwind. Fun for families includes this year's Easter egg trail, the photo trail in 2025, Christmas trails, monster trails and much more. A YES vote in the ballot will enable us to start planning the next programme, and we'll be talking to you about what sort of events will help your business.



We opened a Hull branch 15 years ago and now have our head office here. We received a warm welcome and HullBID has always been at the heart of that. The awards are a real highlight. We've won a couple of times and we are now giving back as category sponsors. There's nothing like the HullBID Awards for bringing together city centre businesses and we're proud to be involved.

Kirk Akdemir, CEO, AaGlobal Language Services.



A board for business

Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) are business-led, business funded, and not-for-profit, with the result that every penny from the levy is spent on making the area better for business. It's therefore vital that the BID board knows what matters to local businesses.

At HullBID we have assembled a board which represents businesses of all sizes and a wide variety of sectors. They have immense experience of how to succeed in business and how to support fellow business people. They are also well connected and influential in wider social, civic and cultural circles, and able to tap into those networks to benefit HullBID and its members. All the board members are unpaid.

Jim Harris

Chair of the HullBID board since 2015 and Centre Manager of St. Stephen's Shopping Centre, since 2009, Jim works with large and small operators in his day job and is known as a key figure in the regional business community.

Julie Buffey

Julie joined the HullBID board in 2014 to strengthen the links with small, local, businesses. With her own vintage and retro boutique, Roisin Dubh, in Hepworth's Arcade and vast experience organising indoor and outdoor markets and events, Julie is an important voice for independent traders.

Craig Higgins

Craig joined the HullBID board in 2024 after Packhorse Management Services took over the Prospect Centre. His expertise as Group Marketing Director brought new ideas to the board and the innovative approach to modernising the Prospect Centre is attracting new businesses and jobs to the city centre.

Mike Rice

Also a Vice Chair of the HullBID board, Mike is the Chair of the renowned jewellery business, which was launched by his brother Hugh, in 1971. Mike joined in 1974 and over the years the company has become one of region's most respected names in luxury. Mike served as High Sheriff of the East Riding of Yorkshire for 2025-26.

Dr. Ian Kelly

Ian marked 30 years as Chief Executive of Hull & Humber Chamber of Commerce in 2025 and one of his key achievements was the successful launch of HullBID in 2006. The BID is based in the Chamber offices on Beverley Road. It is independent but has the use of the facilities and admin support as well as access to a wide range of business advice.

Tim Powell

Tim has been a Partner at Scotts Property LLP since 1998 and heads up the firm's Hull office in Humber Street. He is a Vice Chair of the HullBID board and is an invaluable source of guidance around issues connected with the city centre commercial property scene.

Tom Watson

Tom joined the HullBID board in 2025 and, as Head of Regeneration at Wykeland Group, brings first-hand knowledge and insight of matters around property and place. He joined Wykeland in 2013 and has played a part in the firm's transformation of key sites in Hull and other locations across the north.

Mike Ross

All BIDs are apolitical but strong links with local authorities are vital and, as Leader of Hull City Council, Mike is a valuable contributor to the HullBID board and can secure thorough and timely responses to questions from the business community. Mike came to Hull to study at the University of Hull, stayed after graduating, and has held a seat on the City Council since 2002.

Victoria Jackson MBE

Jim's predecessor as Chair of HullBID, Victoria is also Chair of Kingston Recruitment, the business which she launched in Hull in 1985. Victoria's CV over the years includes roles with the flooring company J A Hewetson & Sons, Plumrose, and Imperial Typewriters. Her voluntary work including as a board member of Humber Offshore Training Association was a factor in her being awarded the MBE in 2006.



HullBID enables local independent businesses to work in partnership with larger organisations across the city centre. It ensures our views, ideas and experiences are listened to and represented on a bigger platform. The events and initiatives funded and supported by the BID have increased footfall and visitor awareness of what the city centre has to offer. It also creates a safe and welcoming environment through enhanced cleaning, security and action to reduce antisocial behaviour.

Julie Buffey, Owner, Roisin Dubh.



The BID family

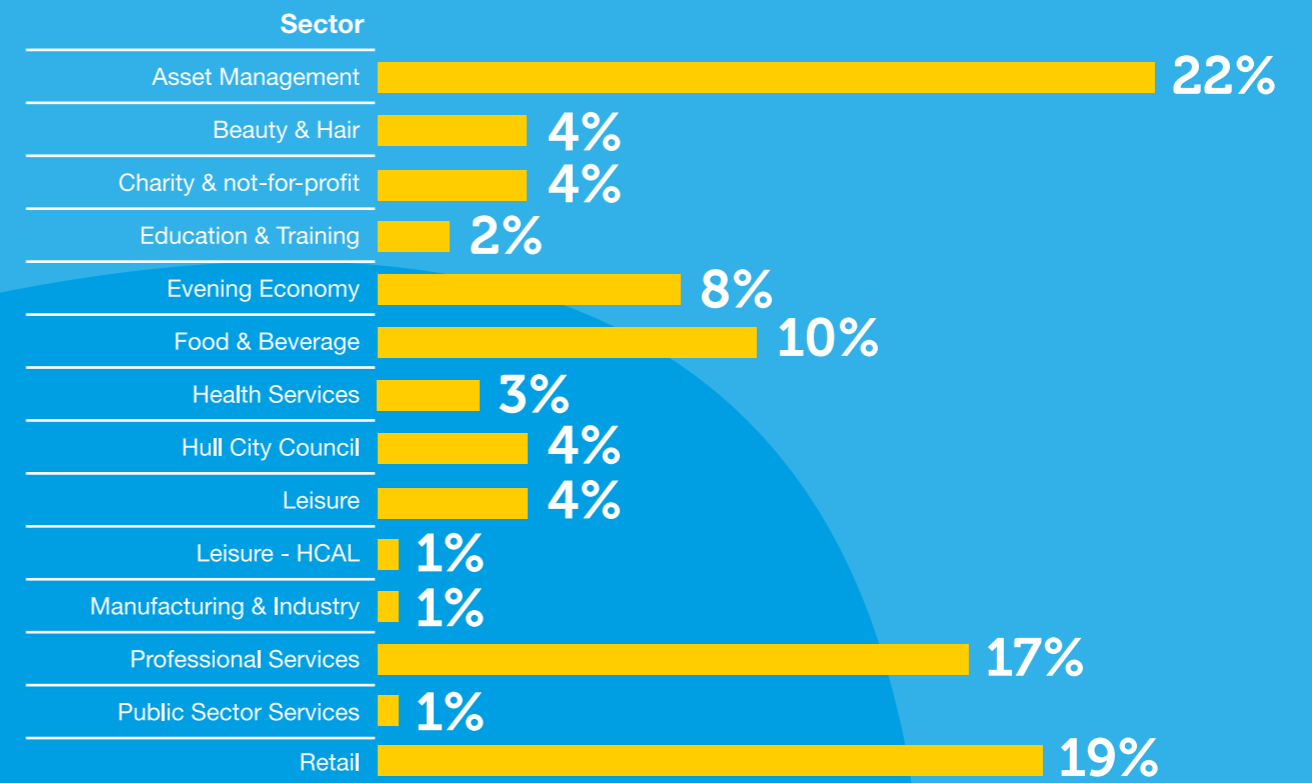
With more than 800 business members across the city centre, HullBID is one of the biggest in the country. It largely fits within the boundary of Tower Street to the east, Freetown Way to the north, The River Humber in the south and Ferensway on the west. There's also an area bordered by parts of Anlaby Road and Park Street.

The breakdown by sectors shows that our business community is big on asset management, retail, professional services and the combination of food and beverage and evening economy. In every sector you'll find a strong showing by local independent businesses, some new, some long-established and all making a major contribution to the regional economy.

HullBID's commitment is to provide the support which will help all of them build a better business. Please vote YES so we can continue our good work.



HullBID business sectors



Good housekeeping and great value

For 20 years HullBID has delivered a comprehensive package of business support funded with a levy on business members set at the equivalent of 1% of the business rate. With the greatest reluctance we now have to seek an increase to 1.75% to maintain the services which are so important to our members and to develop new projects and services.

HullBID was launched as the first in Yorkshire. Now it is one of 16. Others have introduced BIDs as they have seen the competitive advantages of having an organisation dedicated to improving the trading environment, with businesses given the responsibility to raise money and decide how it is spent.

The budget table on these pages indicates HullBID's income forecast for the next five years. It shows how more than £3m will be generated to meet the priorities as set by the city centre business community and the BID board.

The proposed projects and services will continue under the headings of:

Security

City centre patrols, BID radio scheme management, business crime reduction initiatives and partnership working with Humberside Police and stakeholders.

Business

Business representation, networking, placemaking initiatives, one-to-one engagement and support for the evening economy and city centre events.

Communication

Business updates, urgent alerts, newsletters, website management and promotion of city centre businesses, offers and events.

Cleanliness

Graffiti removal, jet washing, waste and fly-tipping clearance, and frontage improvement works.

There is no organisation waiting in the wings to pick up these activities, so it is vital to vote YES if you want to keep them.



I have known HullBID for all 20 years of their existence and they have improved year on year. They can usually help when you want to get something done and if they can't they know someone who can. I'm really thankful for the cleaning work that they do and the security support that they provide. They are always on the go. I'm a great supporter of HullBID and when you think about the cost I am sure they provide value for money.

Priyanka Perera, Managing Director, B.Cooke & Son Ltd.



Indicative budget

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Total
Income						
Levy	£682,820	£682,820	£682,820	£682,820	£682,820	£3,414,098
Total Income	£682,820	£682,820	£682,820	£682,820	£682,820	£3,414,098
Expenditure						
Security	£184,361	£177,500	£178,000	£179,000	£184,361	£903,222
Business	£150,220	£150,220	£150,220	£150,220	£150,220	£751,102
Communication	£102,423	£102,423	£102,423	£102,423	£102,423	£512,115
Cleanliness	£88,767	£88,767	£88,767	£88,767	£88,767	£443,833
Operating costs	£129,736	£132,330	£134,977	£137,677	£140,430	£675,150
Collection costs (assumed)	£25,000	£25,000	£25,000	£25,000	£25,000	£125,000
Total Expenditure	£680,507	£676,240	£679,387	£683,086	£691,201	£3,410,422
Carried Forward	£44,682	£53,574	£63,586	£66,752	£58,104	£58,104
Surplus/Deficit	£2,313	£6,579	£3,433	-£267	-£8,381	£3,677

This is based on an assumed 95% collection rate.



We have good relations with HullBID. They are easy to contact and always there when we need assistance. Martin is invaluable to us, going out and clearing any mess, and if we get any graffiti he's straight onto it. We have a lot of property and if there's an incident in one of the shops HullBID is our first point of contact because they can alert the CCTV team and the police and use the radio system to contact other businesses. The cost of it is very reasonable.

Mike Plaxton, Estates Manager, Hull Trinity House.



Vote Yes for our future

What happens next?

The HullBID ballot will take place during July this year.

In order for the proposal to be successful at ballot the result will need to meet, as a minimum, two independent criteria which are:

- (a) of those ballots returned by the close of ballot, those voting in favour of the proposal must exceed those voting against it, and
- (b) of those ballot papers returned by the close of ballot, the total rateable value (RV) of those properties or hereditaments which vote in favour, must exceed the total of those voting against.

Only properties or hereditaments with a rateable value of £5,000 or more will be eligible for payment of the levy. The maximum sum payable by any one hereditament will not exceed £15,000 in any year.

The HullBID board has agreed that no adjustments will be made to the district boundary. It is asking members to increase the levy to 1.75%.

A **'YES'** vote would see a new term commencing on 1 November 2026 and expiring on 31 October 2031. It would mean the continuation by HullBID of the services outlined in this brochure.

A **'NO'** vote will result in the closure of HullBID and the end of all the services which the BID team has delivered over the last 20 years.

Your bid ballot: How to vote

A quick and simple guide to completing your ballot paper...

- 1. Your ballot paper arrives** - Your official BID ballot pack will be sent to you by post.
- 2. Open the pack - Inside you'll find:** Your ballot paper. A return envelope.
- 3. Check your details** - Make sure your business name and property details are correct.
- 4. To cast your vote:** Place an X in ONE box: YES or NO.

DO NOT WRITE ANYTHING ELSE ON THE VOTING PAPER OR YOUR VOTE WILL BECOME VOID

What if you have more than one property?

If your business occupies more than one property within the BID area, you will receive a ballot paper for each one. Please complete and return each ballot separately.

- 5. Seal your vote** - Place your completed ballot paper into the return envelope provided.
- 6. Return your ballot** - Post your envelope using the details provided. No stamp required if applicable. There will also be a ballot box in the Guildhall reception for people who would like to deliver in person.
- 7. Don't miss the deadline** - Ballots must be returned by 30th July. Late votes cannot be counted.

Need help?

If you have any questions or need a replacement ballot, please contact: Francesca Sharp on 01482 611850 or email Francesca@hullbid.co.uk

And remember...

It takes less than a minute to vote, so make sure your voice is heard.

Ballot arrangements

It is vital that you use your vote and that you vote in favour if you want Hull city centre to continue to improve.

Hull City Council as the ballot holder, will provide ballot packs with full details on how to complete the papers, how to return them, how to replace lost papers and how to appoint a proxy to vote on your behalf.

For information about the ballot process please contact Sara Laverack, email sara.laverack@hullcc.gov.uk

For information about HullBID please contact Francesca Sharp on 01482 611889 or email Francesca@hullbid.co.uk

Ballot timetable

3 July

Deadline of despatch of ballot packs by Hull City Council

3 July to 30 July (5pm)

Returned ballot papers to Hull City Council

30 July (5pm)

Close of ballot

31 July (am)

Ballot count

31 July

Announcement of Ballot result

If the ballot is unsuccessful

There is no other organisation which has the capacity to deliver HullBID's programme of work. In the event that the ballot is unsuccessful, steps will be taken to devolve BID activities and services to associated parties where applicable, within a three month winding down period commencing on 1 November 2026.

Once outstanding costs have been settled, any remaining levy funds within the HullBID account (or funds that have been achieved from levy funded activity e.g. sponsorships) will be reimbursed to levy-paying members. We anticipate this would be administered by Civica, for which a fee may be payable.

HullBID levy and governance

HullBID is funded via a levy, independent of business rates, which is calculated as 1.75% of the rateable value of each hereditament as at 1st November 2026. The administration of this service is carried out on behalf of HullBID by Hull City Council who send out an annual invoice, with relevant notices thereafter. The levy will be charged annually in advance for each chargeable period, and no refunds will be made. Any national rates revaluations during the term will be disregarded subject to the detailed rules available in the BID Proposal or via the BID's website.

Subject to a successful ballot, the levy is mandatory and liability lies with the ratepayer (including untenanted properties). Properties eligible for charitable relief of 80% of their non-domestic rates will be required to pay 50% of the levy that would have otherwise apply.

Businesses within properties where the rateable value falls below £5,000 will not be charged the BID levy, however those businesses that fall under the threshold can become voluntary members at an agreed cost.

HullBID must provide levy-paying businesses with a written, annual summary of income and expenditure for the previous year, plus an indicative budget of where funds will be apportioned in the next year. The HullBID 'Financial Overview' is distributed at the time of invoicing. The AGM also provides an opportunity to review HullBID's annual accounts.

The Hull and Humber Chamber of Commerce is the accountable body for HullBID. Board directors are drawn from BID member businesses and organisations that reflect the diversity of the BID area to ensure commercial sense and inclusivity. Applications for vacancies are open to any member business irrespective of sector and interested parties must submit a current CV for the board's scrutiny and attend an informal interview.



As a small independent travel agency, we've been part of Hull city centre since opening in 1993, recently moving into much larger premises.

The city centre remains vital to businesses like ours, helping us stay connected with the community and our customers, and HullBID plays a huge role. That sense of community is incredibly valuable and helps make Hull city centre such a positive place to work and do business.

Gemma Russell (right), Branch Manager, Andrew Earles Holidays, pictured during a visit by Francesca Sharp, HullBID's Business Liaison Officer.



A personal commitment



The HullBID team working for you: From left, Raich Orr (Operations & Support Officer), Francesca Sharp (Business Liaison Officer), Mark Andrews (Senior Support Officer), and Martin Foster (Cleaning & Maintenance Operative).

Collectively they are the face of HullBID, with a total of more than 50 years' combined service.

You'll see Martin buzzing around the city centre. Even before businesses open their doors for the day, he's hard at work clearing waste, power washing pavements, doorways and alleys, and removing graffiti. Mark and Raich are on top of the safety and security brief, patrolling the streets as the vital link between the businesses, Humberside Police and Hull City Council's antisocial behaviour team. Francesca liaises directly with city centre businesses, keeping them informed about activities and opportunities, and connecting with the key contacts who can help with any problems. By working closely with businesses, venues, partners and stakeholders, the entire HullBID team also delivers a diverse programme of events that not only attract visitors but also strengthen community spirit and showcase everything the city centre has to offer.

They are passionate, dedicated, reliable and resourceful, and they see their work as a personal commitment to each and every business.

To contact them call the HullBID hotline on 01482 611888 or email Francesca@hullbid.co.uk

To find out more visit hullbid.co.uk

And don't forget – vote YES to keep the HullBID team working hard for you!



"As a leading law firm with a presence in the Old Town since 1841, we reinforced our commitment to the city after the merger which led to the creation of Wilkin Chapman Rollits in 2025.

We expanded our team in Hull and reaffirmed our confidence in the regional business community. HullBID is a key factor, working to keep the city centre safe, secure and clean, for our people and our clients."

Chris Drinkall and James Marsden, Joint Heads of Wilkin Chapman Rollits' Hull office.



Working with HullBID represents a strategically important and highly valued partnership for our charity. Their role as an interface between our event activity and the city centre community - engaging both residents and local businesses - is instrumental in building meaningful interest and participation in our initiatives. As both a catalyst and an essential enabler, HullBID plays a pivotal role in the success of our events, and we look forward to continuing this collaborative relationship.

Andy Train, Chair, Pride in Hull.

