

Q3News

Vote YES to keep HullBID working for a safe, clean and vibrant city centre



Raich Orr (Operations & Support Officer), Francesca Sharp (Business Liaison Officer), Mark Andrews (Senior Support Officer), and Martin Foster (Cleaning & Maintenance Operative).

HullBID is embarking on another ballot to keep the services which have supported businesses in the city centre for 20 years, and BID Chair Jim Harris is urging members to vote yes.

Jim has issued a personal message in the ballot brochure which has now been sent to all businesses eligible to vote. He highlights the transformation which the city is undergoing on the back of investment worth hundreds of millions of pounds, and the need to protect that by working together to create a safe, clean and vibrant business environment.

Among the evidence, Jim cites a glowing recommendation from National Geographic: "Top 25 destinations in the world for 2026? It doesn't get more official than that!"

Jim said: "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.

"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."

The brochure also includes a message from the HullBID team. There's Martin, who even before most business have opened their doors is 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, managing the HullBID radio system and patrolling the streets as the essential link between the businesses, Humberside Police and Hull City Council's antisocial behaviour and Civic 1 CCTV teams.

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.

Collectively they deliver 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.

Jim said: "The brochure tells you all you need to know about the ballot including the benefits of HullBID's crucial contribution to helping the city centre reap the long term rewards of all the investment in the Castle Street completion, the Hull Maritime project, events such as Humber Street Sesh and Freedom Festival, and the new businesses which feature in every newsletter.

"It sets out the costs of the levy which funds HullBID, details of the BID's plans for the next five years of city centre improvements, and how to vote. It's an incredible success story of a passionate HullBID team and their partnership with an amazing city centre business community. To ensure we keep it please vote YES!"

HullBID Introducing

New hub will support young entrepreneurs

A new centre created to represent young entrepreneurs, schools, and the youth enterprise eco-system across Hull and East Yorkshire will also celebrate the achievements and legacy of one of the key figures behind the regeneration of the region.

Elevate @ Mark Jones MBE Centre, which opened its doors for a preview during Humber Business Week, is the result of a £2.2m project funded by the government to transform offices at 161 High Street, Hull, into a safe space where young entrepreneurs – many of them from disadvantaged backgrounds – can develop and promote their own business ideas.

The centre will be the base for the City Council's Youth Enterprise & Microbusiness Team and



The open day at Elevate @ Mark Jones MBE Centre.

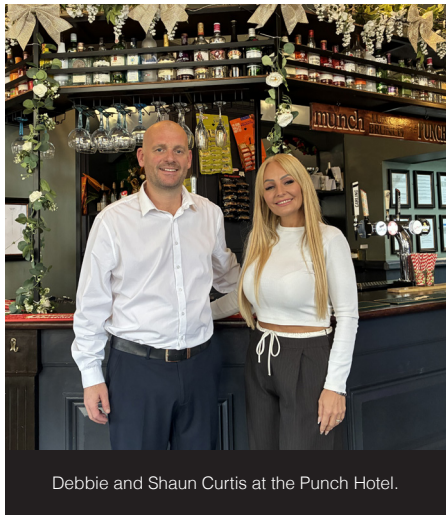
will support their delivery of the premier Making Changes for Careers programme (MC4C).

Facilities include 14 rooms all available for rent to aspiring young entrepreneurs from Hull. Other

space in the building includes a meeting place and a podcast studio, both of which can be used by the young entrepreneurs to promote their businesses and by the different organisations in the city that support their work.

The centre has been named in memory of Mark Jones MBE, who was the Director of Regeneration at Hull City Council and died in September 2023. It recognises Mark's commitment to people and his efforts to create opportunities that would benefit aspiring young entrepreneurs and those who were care-experienced.

Cllr Paul Drake-Davis, Hull City Council's portfolio holder for economic renewal and housing, said: "Elevate @ the Mark Jones MBE Centre is a significant step forward in the council's commitment to help create an enterprise culture, which is vital to establishing a vibrant, sustainable and inclusive economy."



Debbie and Shaun Curtis at the Punch Hotel.

Couple have exciting plans for The Punch

Debbie and Shaun Curtis are planning to celebrate Hull's heritage and make new history of their own after taking over "the most passed pub in the city centre".

The couple will continue to play to the strengths which have made The Punch Hotel a favourite for food, drink, and events and will also capitalise on its location just yards away from the revamped Maritime Museum and Hull City Hall.

Shaun has been running the pub for Forrest & Co since 2019. He re-connected with college friend Debbie in 2022 and they were married in 2024. Now, after Bryan and Chris Forrest decided to step aside, Debbie and Shaun are seizing their opportunity to take the business forward.

Debbie said: "The building is beautiful and it's a

great location – it's the most passed pub in Hull so everybody knows where we are. When we told the brewery of our plans that convinced them to let us go ahead."

Since Forrest & Co took over, improvements have included a full refurbishment inside and outside, with an extended beer garden and versatile function room upstairs. The Punch still has the same DJ who has been pulling the crowds for the last 30 years, and the quality of the food menu is always a hit with shoppers and visitors.

Debbie said: "We'll be making more improvements to the beer garden and we also want to make more of the city's history, especially with the maritime museum reopening in August. We want to display more photographs of Hull over the years and make the most of our location – during the last year Hull City and Hull KR have reminded us that it's a great place for a celebration!"

Travel company opens a city centre office

A fast-growing travel firm has opened its sixth office and first in Hull after seeing business take off since it started in 2020.

Paragon Travel Lounge in Paragon Arcade is expanding after tackling a competitive industry by taking an innovative approach with the focus on face to face contact.

Under the Umbrella of Beverley Travel Ltd, the business followed the launch of its initial premises in Flemingate, Beverley, by adding stores in Hedon and Market Weighton.

This year the company opened North Bar Travel in Beverley in February and Driffield Travel in April. Paragon Travel Lounge takes the head count across the business to 21.

Kelly Cheesman, a director of the business, said: "We planned to open a store in June and we

identified this location and were able to move very quickly. This is our first city centre store and we have noticed a very strong desire among the public to have a high street that has good businesses. People want to support their communities and so do we."

Kelly and her co-director both have extensive experience in other sectors and merged their businesses to create Beverley Travel Ltd.

Kelly said: "There was a time in this industry when the internet was everything but people recognise it doesn't really support them if things go wrong. We do things in a different way and we see things through fresh eyes.

"Innovation is a big thing for us. We will be appointment led and make the booking process an enjoyable experience with good coffee, a glass of fizz or beer. We also take a concierge approach and have a VIP club, with a points-based system which gives discounts on future bookings."

To find out more call 01482 334456 or visit www.paragontravellounge.co.uk



Kelly Cheesman and Karl Douglas outside their new premises.

HullBID Introducing

Plans submitted for £25m hotel project

Hull-based commercial property developer Wykeland Group has submitted revised plans for a stylish new hotel in the city centre, under the Marriott group's chic Moxy brand.

Subject to planning approval, a £25m investment would see the hotel built opposite the city's Connexin Live arena.

Wykeland already has planning permission for a hotel on the site. With Moxy now lined up, revised plans have been submitted to Hull City Council to meet the hotel brand's specific requirements.

The development is planned for a site on Waterhouse Lane, next to the recently-restored Castle Buildings and former Earl de Grey pub, and delivery of the hotel would mark the completion of a transformative regeneration project across the wider site.



The revised plans are for a seven-storey hotel with 122 bedrooms. The ground floor would include a bar and food area, a gym and a relaxation space, and a business section.

Jonathan Stubbs, Wykeland's Development Director,

said: "We're proud of our work to restore Castle Buildings and the Earl de Grey and the development of a Moxy hotel would complete this prominent development site, as well as being an impressive addition to the Hull skyline.

"These revised plans ensure the building reflects the stylish Moxy brand. Approval of the planning application will pave the way for the development of a high-quality new hotel that the business community, the tourism and hospitality sectors, and visitors to Hull have been crying out for."

Molly Turpie, Senior Manager, International Hotel Development, for Marriott International Hotels, said: "We're excited at the prospect of creating a hotel that reflects the spirit of the city while delivering the high standards and global reach of Marriott International.

"Hull's independent spirit and cultural vibrancy make it a natural fit for Moxy, and we're excited at the prospect of bringing something fresh, playful and distinctive to the city's hospitality scene."

Asi Turkish Kitchen takes prime location

A city centre site which has been a prime location for great restaurants over the years has now welcomed another with the opening of Asi Turkish Kitchen.

The building at the corner of Paragon Square and Ferensway was home to Stanley's Brasserie and then Long An Vietnamese restaurant.

Now Ali Erdogan has chosen it for the launch of the third Asi eatery having opened Asi Barbecue Restaurant and Bar in Walton Street in 2020 and then expanded to the city centre in 2023 with Asi Café in Jameson Street.

Ali has been living and working in Hull since 2008 and previous centres in the city centre include The Omelette in Albion Street and the Panini Cafe &

Sandwich Bar in Story Street.

Asi Turkish Kitchen has 60 seats across two floors and is open seven days a week, from midday until 10pm on weekdays and until 11pm at weekends. Sunday opening is 3pm until 9pm.

The menu features all of the favourites from Asi Barbecue Restaurant and Bar including kebabs and other grills, hot and cold meze, salads and Turkish desserts. For the new restaurant Ali has added soups and daily specials.

He said: "We saw the place was available for rent so we contacted the owners. They knew our business and came down so we could take a look round.

"I opened Asi Café because I wanted a place in town to get more people in and get known. The new site is known as a location for good restaurants and it's easy for people to see which means more people are finding out about our brand."



Boyes brings second store to city centre

A favourite regional retailer has opened a second store in Hull city centre after taking on a vacant unit at the Prospect Centre.

Boyes has moved into the former Wilko premises with its familiar mix of affordable goods including clothing, homeware, DIY essentials, stationery, and seasonal items. The investment adds to recent openings in the Centre which include Cafe Atrium, Cozy Kiln Pottery Studio, DNC Gemstones and Peacocks.

Mike Sweeney, who manages the new store as well as Boyes in Whitefriargate, said the new store is proving very popular with customers

He said: "We are getting a lot of positive feedback



from people who are pleased to see the space busy again. People are surprised by how much space we have here with a sizeable shop floor and

an additional area where we can store equipment.

"We are also pleased with the welcome we have had from HullBID. 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."

A spokesperson for The Prospect Centre said: "We are pleased Boyes are investing in the city and reusing a well-known retail location, helping to boost footfall and contribute to the local economy"

"Their arrival also signals a positive shift for the high street, with another empty retail unit returning to active use following a challenging period for bricks-and-mortar stores."

Q3Report

Businesses tell of the benefits which HullBID brings to the city centre



Businesses across the city centre are leading the support for HullBID as the organisation embarks on its latest ballot campaign.

Police and political leaders have also spoken of the importance of HullBID in creating a safe, clean and vibrant city centre.

Jim Harris, Chair of HullBID and General Manager of St Stephen's, said: "We're delighted that so many of our key stakeholders have signalled their support for HullBID, and we are particularly pleased that businesses are leading the way.

"It is so encouraging for the HullBID team to hear of the value placed on their efforts by Humberside Police and Hull City Council, and it is next level to hear how much the businesses appreciate their work."

The ballot brochure, which will be arriving with the ballot packs this month, features testimonials from various businesses and other partners which have benefited from the work of HullBID over the years. Others have provided comments for inclusion in the newsletter.

Dan Fryer, Director of Jubilee Central told how HullBID supported the organisation which earlier this year completed its £650,000 transformation of the former NatWest Bank in King Edward Street and opened The Living Room café, which helps to fund its work helping long-term unemployed people back into employment.

Dan said: "Hull BID have been a vital support to us at Jubilee Central. As we launched our business, the team provided support in helping us advertise locally and connect us with their extensive network. They are really proactive in championing local businesses. On a day to day basis, we have regular visits from Mark and Raich who assist

in dealing with any issues relating to antisocial behaviour and have helped to make the city centre a safer space for visitors."

Vicky Peat, Director / Accountant at SmartView Accountants Limited, has worked closely with HullBID since launching her business last year.

Vicky said: "As a new city centre business since March 2025, we have found the support from HullBID absolutely invaluable. The team have been amazing, always friendly, approachable and incredibly supportive as we established ourselves in the city centre. From helping to maintain a safe and clean environment to always being on hand when needed, they consistently go the extra mile for local businesses.

"We've also been proud to support HullBID ourselves through the Inspiring People event in 2025 and the HullBID Awards in 2026, which reflects the strong partnership they build within the local business community."

Lee Gleeson celebrated at this year's HullBID Awards as Calla café bar in Whitefriargate won the Most Stylish and Welcoming Premises category. Calla followed up by hosting a HullBID supper club and Lee is also co-owner of Zinnia in Savile Street and Nanouk in Market Place.

He said: "The events are a massive thing for us. Dino Day, Hull Street Food Nights and the music events drive footfall into the city centre and the supper club is another one. I've been to three and we hosted one at Calla. Also HullBID are always there for us. If I ever need anything because of antisocial behaviour and the problems that come from that I can just pick up the phone. We get a lot from HullBID and it doesn't cost much at all."

News

Businesses getting ready to welcome crowds for Dino Day

HullBID will once again bring together city centre businesses to deliver one of the biggest crowd-pullers of the year when Dino Day takes place on Friday 7 August.

KCOM has signed up as headline sponsor for the event which will also be supported by more than 20 other organisations from private businesses to museums and other attractions.

Dino Day made its debut in 2022 and last year attracted a crowd estimated at 8,000 to enjoy the dinosaur parade and performances. This year the fun will start at 11am with Darren Lethem the host for shows featuring a Tyrannosaurus Rex, Dilophosaurus and Baby Dino.

There will also be stalls selling dinosaur related products and souvenirs and there will be free



Huge crowds at Dino Day.

interactive activities and crafts until the event closes at 3pm.

Francesca Sharp, HullBID Business Liaison Officer, said: "Apart from one or two activities

where the operator may have to set a small charge, everything at Dino Day is free. Families can enjoy four hours of fun and frights and save their money to spend in the shops and food and drink venues.

"We're grateful to all those businesses which are supporting it, and especially to KCOM for coming in as headline sponsor."

Neil Bartholomew, KCOM Consumer Managing Director, said: "We're always excited to support community events that bring a bit of fun and imagination into the city centre – and Dino Day certainly delivers on both! Seeing families exploring Hull alongside some larger-than-life prehistoric visitors is something really special.

"It's a fantastic way to keep young explorers entertained over the summer holidays, and we're sure this year will be bigger, louder and even more roar-some than ever!"

To find out more visit <https://hullbidevents.co.uk/dinoday-2026/>

The Deep claims two awards and sets dates for holiday attractions

Hull's iconic aquarium and conservation charity The Deep has claimed two top consumer accolades.

The attraction was named for the second year in a row as the top aquarium in Tripadvisor's Traveller's Choice list. It was also awarded Which? Recommended Provider status in the prestigious "UK's best wildlife attractions" category.

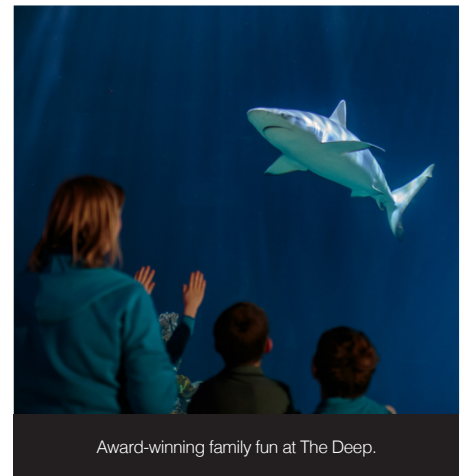
The Traveller's Choice Awards by Tripadvisor recognise travellers' favourite destinations, hotels, restaurants, and things to do around the world, based on reviews and ratings collected over every 12 months. This recognition is based on achieving over 5,000 reviews in total, with over three quarters of reviews rating the aquarium good and excellent.

Which? members praised The Deep across several key areas, including receiving the highest score for wildlife experience and customer service.

Katy Duke, Chief Executive Officer at The Deep, said: "As a charity, we are exceptionally proud to have been named the UK's top aquarium for not just one, but two years running and to have achieved Which? Recommended Provider status. This is testament to all our Crew in consistently delivering an outstanding day out for visitors.

"Every visit to The Deep helps support our vital education and conservation work, both here in the UK and around the globe. Our visitors' support is invaluable, so thank you again to everyone that has left a review and helped us maintain this incredible achievement."

With school holidays approaching, The Deep will present its "Rockpools & Rocky Shores" event from Saturday 18th July until Sunday 6th September. It will be themed around the Yorkshire coastline and



Award-winning family fun at The Deep.

identifying the different animals that can be found in rockpools. The Deep crew will also share top tips on how to stay safe at the coast.

City of Hull Street Angels receive royal recognition

City of Hull Street Angels have officially received the King's Award for Voluntary Service - the highest accolade given to volunteer groups in the UK.

Often described as the "MBE for volunteer groups," the honour was presented by Mr. Jim Dick OBE, His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the East Riding of Yorkshire, in recognition of the charity's exceptional contribution to safety and wellbeing within Hull's night-time economy.

Entirely run by volunteers, City of Hull Street Angels patrol Hull city centre on weekend evenings and during major events. They provide practical, compassionate support to help keep people safe - offering emergency first aid, water, flip-flops, foil blankets, and assist vulnerable individuals to get



Pictured with the award are Vice Lord-Lieutenant Commission Christopher Oughtred, Street Angels trustee Pat Hutchinson, chair Jamie Lewis and Jim Dick OBE.

home either with friends and family or taxi. Their presence plays a crucial role in supporting public safety, often de-escalating situations and reducing

unnecessary calls to emergency services by providing help and reassurance on the spot.

The Lord-Lieutenant presented the King's Award crystal and certificate to the volunteers on behalf of His Majesty The King, expressing thanks for their dedication and community service.

Jamie Lewis, Chair of City of Hull Street Angels, said: "Receiving the King's Award for Voluntary Service is a truly incredible honour and a proud milestone for myself as chair and every one of our volunteers. This award recognises their quiet dedication and the lasting, positive difference that volunteering brings to Hull."

The Lord-Lieutenant said: "It is a privilege to present this award to City of Hull Street Angels. These volunteers embody true community spirit - their work directly improves safety and wellbeing in Hull city centre. This accolade reflects His Majesty The King's appreciation of their vital role and their tireless efforts to make a difference."

HullBID marks Biz Week with supper club at Rosedana

HullBID partnered with city centre restaurant Rosedana to celebrate Humber Business Week by presenting the latest in the series of business supper clubs.

BID member businesses and their guests enjoyed a discounted three-course menu and complimentary drink which showcased the fare on offer at the restaurant in George Street.

Dana Aljaser, Executive at Rosedana, said: "It's been really important to host this event because it gives the city centre business community the chance to enjoy our international menu and our restaurant.

"The most important thing is that people enjoy it, come again and tell their business contacts. We

think Hull city centre has great potential and we see confidence is increasing because of all the improvements which are taking place. HullBID is an important part of that."

Rosedana opened in 2025 and can accommodate more than 50 people in the main restaurant, with other lounges and outdoor seating areas which can be booked for smaller events.

Rick Bakhshi, Director at Flexworks, said the contacts made through HullBID have already brought benefits for his flexible workspace centre which opened a year ago.

He said: "It's nice to go to events like this because networking is important for businesses. It helps you build awareness of what is available in the city and a good example of that is that we now have a very good food supplier for the lunches we offer and we found them through HullBID."

Francesca Sharp, HullBID Business Liaison Officer, said: "The supper clubs are great for the restaurants



HullBID and Rosedana partnered for the latest supper club.

because the revenue they generate more than covers the cost of the BID levy even before you consider repeat business. We've got some exciting venues lined up and will announce more events soon provided the ballot is successful".

Professionals in biking challenge for Dove House

The brakes will be off when rivals teams of bankers and briefs go head to head for a fundraising cycle challenge in aid of Dove House Hospice.

Teams from Barclays, Halifax, HSBC, Lloyds Bank and Skipton Building Society will represent the banking sector by jumping onto exercise bikes across the city centre on Thursday 16 July.

Lining up for the law firms will be teams from Andrew Jackson Solicitors, Bridge McFarland, James Legal, Gosschalks and gunnercooke llp. Hull Culture and Leisure will be supplying the bikes, and HullBID will provide gazebo.

In a similar challenge last year, seven banks took part



Banks and law firms lining up to support Dove House Hospice.

and raised £4,200 between them. Jonny Bottomley, Partnership Development Fundraiser, at Dove House Hospice, is expecting a bigger total this year.

He said: "For a start we've got three more teams. We've also got two sectors – when I was delivering bike to a bank last year someone from a nearby law

firm spotted me and asked if we could a challenge for them. The banks wanted to do it again, so we decided to combine them.

"We're expecting fierce and fun competition and we hope it will become a fixture in the calendar and get bigger every year."

Colleagues, contacts and the general public can support the teams by making donations on the day at the various locations in Jameson Street, Trinity Market, and Hull Marina.

Each team also has a Just Giving page and more details are available from the main event page at <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/bvscyclechallenge>

The challenge will start at 10am and end at 4pm, with the results to be announced and trophies presented in Jameson Street at 4.15pm. Prizes will be up for grabs in categories including overall champion, bank champion, solicitor champion and best fancy dress.



Chair's statement Jim Harris, HullBID Chairman

Welcome to another HullBID newsletter packed with stories of achievement. We've got great new businesses opening, big, crowd-pulling events returning, national awards highlighting excellence, and all of it underpinned by a community spirit developed during 20 years of HullBID. My message to reinforce all of that is straightforward. Our city centre is in great shape and, after receiving public and private sector investment worth hundreds of millions of pounds, is earning global recognition as a fantastic place to work, rest and play. Please take the time to read the HullBID ballot brochure, and vote YES to help us all maximise the benefits.

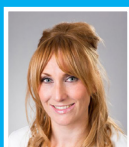
Got a question?

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

To find out about our board directors, visit www.hullbid.co.uk



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