



#BLUE
BERMONDSEY

**RENEWAL PROPOSAL
2024-2029**

**YOUR BUSINESS
OUR BUSINESS**

SAY YES



INTRODUCTION

Blue Bermondsey BID is nearing the end of our second term, and you are receiving our BID proposals as your business is eligible to vote in the upcoming renewal ballot to be held throughout November 2023.

Our origins arise from a small group of passionate local business owners, who got together in 2008, to lobby for a better deal for local businesses. Through this work the first proposals for a Businesses Improvement District were developed and received a majority yes vote at our first ballot in 2014.

In 2019 we received another majority yes vote at renewal ballot and with your levy contribution and support we have solidified our status to become an established and influential local stakeholder organisation.

This has been achieved by delivering tangible and effective results through a wide range of beneficial services to our businesses, and a multitude of ground-breaking projects and initiatives in the local area.

Most notable is the Made in Bermondsey regeneration programme, which represents a true turning point in the fortunes of the Blue and is an unparalleled example of what can be achieved when business and community collaborate together for the greater good.

So please read on to find out more on what we have been doing, what we have planned and why we are asking you to VOTE YES in the November renewal ballot.



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These BID proposals give details of many of our operations and activities and sets out our key priorities, aims and ambitions for a third term. And why we are asking you to VOTE YES YES.

This document becomes the framework within which the BID will operate following a successful ballot in November 2023

WELCOME

I am proud of the work we have done over the two terms and to be part of the gradual transformation of the Blue. The momentous achievements of the Made in Bermondsey project are a testament to the influence of local businesses working collectively in partnership with local stakeholders and the community.

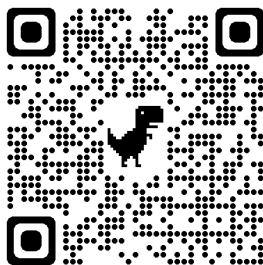
The Blue now has an inviting and unique community hub at its heart, which as well as being home to the Blue Market, is now hosting a regular calendar of diverse cultural events and activities which are attracting more footfall and interest to the area from new businesses and visitors.

The pandemic and now the rising cost of doing business means we are facing unprecedented times as business owners and more than ever a strong and unified voice for local business is essential.

With the current Biscuit Factory housing development set to create a brand-new neighbourhood with 1500 new homes, we stand on the brink of a new chapter in the long history of the Blue.

Through the unified voice of the BID and a joined up strategy, will we be able to work with the developers and local stakeholders to ensure that we can grasp the opportunities and economic benefits this will bring in the coming years. Only through a yes vote can we continue to be involved.

Jack Shah, Blue Bermondsey Chair



PS: Scan the QR to visit our website to discover more about our activities

ABOUT BIDS

Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) like ours are business led and funded partnership organisations, which are set up by like-minded business people to make improvements within a defined geographical area.

BID's are created or renewed through a formal ballot of eligible businesses within the BID area who pay a small levy based on the rateable value of the business premises.

Blue Bermondsey is an independent, not-for-profit company limited by guarantee and our operations are directed by a board consisting of people from levy paying businesses and organisations who oversee the development and delivery of services and initiatives.

OUR BID BOARD MEMBERS

Anood Al-Samerai
Alex Smith
Lesley Hutchins
Luds Van Den Belt
Jack Shah
Jake Farey
Jackie Bygrave
Simon Bell
Russell Dryden

Community Southwark
Alex & Matteo
Robert Guy Services
Big Local Works
Blue 1 London
Bermondsey Social Club
The Blue Youth Centre
Bell & Sons Butchers
BID Manager

Our Southwark Council representative is
Clr. Martin Seaton

Only through a majority YES VOTE in the November renewal ballot can we continue to represent and serve your business through a unified voice

WORKING FOR YOU

The Blue Bermondsey BID area includes an assorted mixture of businesses, who are our first priority and spending your levy contribution wisely is our overriding ethos.

We have worked tirelessly to provide a wide range of beneficial services to your businesses, whilst improving the look and feel of the area to harmonise with neighbouring areas and better connect us with future prospects and opportunities.

The levy contribution and your support are the backbone of all we do and has also been vital in us being able to pull in £2.3m of additional external investment into the area since our formation in 2014, and a third term will enable the potential to bring more in the future.

For most businesses the financial cost of backing the BID is relatively small, yet the cost of not having the BID working and advocating for local businesses could be a far higher. As the old saying goes “you have to cast a Sprat to catch a Mackerel”.

We are asking you to vote yes to a further five year term at the November renewal ballot, so that Blue Bermondsey BID can continue being a trusted and dedicated organisation, committed to championing the cause of local business.

Peace, Love 'n' Fish
Russell Dryden
Blue Bermondsey BID Manager (and local Fishmonger)





OUR OPERATING PRINCIPLES


- We are an independent, not-for-profit company limited by guarantee.
- We are non-political and work only in the best interests of our levy payers.
- We are run by a board of made up of levy paying businesses and organisations.
- We are financially transparent, publishing annual reports and running AGM's for our levy payers, who are eligible to join the board or one of our project groups.
- We deliver beneficial services and projects that are in addition to those provided by Southwark.
- Funds cannot be spent on services that are already provided by your business rates.
- We communicate and engage with our businesses and adapt to changing needs.
- We recognise that we exist as part of a wider community and place importance on also engaging with them.
- We funded primarily through the BID levy and committed to supplementing levy income with additional grant funding and sponsorship from external sources.
- We set out clear objectives and a sensible, costed programme of work and act in good faith to deliver these.
- We operate a voluntary membership scheme for local businesses who are not eligible.


HOW WERE THESE PROPOSALS DEVELOPED


Engagement and consultation are ingrained into our day-to-day operations, and throughout our current BID term we have held several consultation exercises with businesses as well as local people to gauge how we are doing and adapt to emerging issues or trends.


 Our BID manager is always on hand to meet and discuss any matters in person and respond as required to ensure that the views and suggestions of our levy paying businesses are respected and addressed.


 From January 2020 through to July 2021 we oversaw the Made in Bermondsey regeneration project, which included an initial 18-month consultation period with our business members and the community to help develop the project themes and designs.


 In June 2022 we conducted a thorough six-month consultation and research exercise involving a combination of businesses and local people through in-depth surveys and one-to-one interviews.

 In early April 2023 we conducted a walkabout to meet businesses with Southwark Council representatives to gain constructive feedback and align our new term aspirations with those of the Council.

 From May to July 2023, we carried more in depth research with businesses through visits and questionnaires to gain feedback on our proposed third term themes and projects

 In August 2023 we held a business consultation event to promote our services and gain further input on current business issues and concerns.

 We hold free cycle maintenance sessions every fortnight at the Biscuit Factory Complex, where input is gathered and information about BID activities is provided.

 We hold regular business and community engagement stalls at the Blue Market to understand better how our work can help regenerate the area economically.



Our extensive and prolonged consultation has allowed us to identify many strengths and some long-standing negative perceptions about the area.

The following pages give details on our four main themes and many of our key operations and activities to date, and sets out our key priorities, aims and ambitions for a third term., and why we are asking you to: vote YES in the November ballot.



Business and community engagement stall at The Blue Market

OUR PLANS FOR BUSINESS SERVICES

Our main priority is providing beneficial services to our levy paying businesses and we will continue to;

- ✓ Help our businesses to cut operating costs through a variety of free and discounted services.
- ✓ Remain a strong representative voice to Southwark Council and interact on local economy issues, relevant policy and business strategies.
- ✓ Provide opportunities for businesses to network, through sustaining existing partnerships and connections, such as the Southwark BID forum to share ideas, information, and develop joint projects.
- ✓ Promote our businesses through the dedicated online business directory, consistent marketing and promotion across our highly active and well supported social media accounts, alongside regular features, and advertisements in printed media.
- ✓ Sustain partnerships with the local community and key local stakeholders to develop mutually beneficial projects and initiatives.

In addition, we will:

- ✓ Assist our businesses in being better equipped to meet the challenges of climate change through free support and advice as a key delivery partner in the Southwark Climate Collective through the recent funding award from the UK shared prosperity fund.
- ✓ Continue to oversee the development of the Blue Market in partnership with Big Local Works to bring more traders and footfall and support all businesses and local entrepreneurs.
- ✓ Pursue and apply for all relevant external funding streams to support our work.
- ✓ Engage with the new owners of the Biscuit Factory housing development to capitalise on the economic benefits for local business it will bring.
- ✓ Further develop local employment and training initiative to get local people into local jobs.

- FREE FIRST AID TRAINING
- FREE DR BIKE SESSIONS
- FREE ONLINE DIRECTORY
- FREE JOBS BOARD
- FREE HEALTH & SAFETY TRAINING
- FREE SOCIAL MEDIA PROMOTION
- DISCOUNTED WASTE COLLECTION

OUR BUSINESS, YOUR BUSINESS

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When the pandemic struck In March 2020, six months into our second term, we demonstrated the benefits of having a dedicated organisation helping its members access the financial support and guidance available to them.

Like all businesses the BID had to show resilience and resourcefulness to meet the new challenges we all faced. We started a programme of weekly online board meetings and adapted quickly to keep our services and projects practically functional by:

- ✓ Establishing a business peer-to-peer support group via Whatsapp and tailored assistance to awareness of online trading.
- ✓ Setting up a dedicated business directory and helped businesses to establish an online presence.
- ✓ Supporting local cafes and restaurants to take advantage of the surge to join food delivery platforms.
- ✓ Launching a daily free cargo bike deliver service within two weeks after lockdown.
- ✓ Weekly meetings with Southwark Council and our neighbouring BIDs via the Southwark BIDs forum to gain information and give input to play a vital role in helping our businesses access grants and support throughout the lockdowns.

OUR PLANS FOR **SAFETY & SECURITY**

We are all aware of the rise in crime and the current shortage of local Police to tackle criminal activity. While there is no easy solution, in a third term we will do our best to contribute effectively towards addressing local issues by:

- ✓ Continuing our relationship with the South Bermondsey neighbourhood Police team and attend all ward panel meetings to gather input and give feedback.
- ✓ Help businesses be better prepared and aware to combat cyber-crime through our links with Cyber Resilience Centre for London links.
- ✓ Remain a member of the Safer Business Network business crime reduction partnership to keep updated with the latest information and support to tackle and prevent business crime.
- ✓ Continue to work towards seeking a workable formula to contribute effectively towards crime prevention through extension our business crime watch scheme.
- ✓ Work with the new Blue Bermondsey stakeholders group to identifying how business and community can work together to make it as difficult as possible for offenders.
- ✓ Initiate new business crime forums meetings with businesses and the local Police Team.
- ✓ Encourage our businesses to become more proactive in logging incidents to identify consistent offenders and act on the data to deal with local crime issues.

together we are safer

SAY YES 



OUR PLANS FOR ARTS & CULTURE

On the Bermondsey Coat of Arms, the motto reads 'Arts Profits People' and through our work over two terms we have been guided by this to fuel our ambition for the Blue to become an attractive and intriguing destination, that will attract visitors from far and wide.

Since coming out of lockdown, we have developed a monthly programme of colourful engaging events promoting and highlighting cultural diversity through a wide range of participatory activities that have promoted community cohesion creativity, inspirational learning, and awareness of the local environment.

We have gained funding and taken over the management of the annual Bermondsey Carnival, a treasured local event that was in danger of disappearing from the local calendar after struggling to attain sufficient funding in recent years.

We have commissioned an assortment of vibrant public artworks, including two large scale murals located around the BID area, with concepts and content inspired by community workshops. These inspiring visual interventions have animated formerly grotty spaces and brightened up the local environment.

In a third term we will continue to work with local artists, creatives and all members of the local community to continue this essential uplifting work in partnership to develop new initiatives and supported artistic endeavour in all its forms.

Our events have collectively attracted thousands of visitors to the area and boosting economic activity with much needed footfall, whilst enabling local artists and creatives to participate.



OUR PLANS FOR AREA PROFILE

The transformation of Market Place into a unique and inviting community hub has demonstrated what is possible and has provided a foundation on which to build our long-term vision for the rebirth and regeneration of the area as a whole and we will:

- ✓ Build on the Made in Bermondsey regeneration project and develop legacy projects guided by the findings of the extensive community, identity, and culture research.
- ✓ Act proactively to deal with the many negative perceptions about the Blue uncovered in our research, and address the issues through our work, such as the recent: Unheard Voices, Different Stories project funded by Historic England.
- ✓ Ensure that the stories of local businesses are told and show that we are a multicultural business community, that is a true representation of the demographic and diversity of the present day.
- ✓ Form a new Blue Bermondsey local stakeholders group of 'doers' dedicated to identifying how business and community can work together to actively seek and apply for further external funding to deliver pioneering initiatives.
- ✓ Continue our work with the Blue Youth Centre after lobbying for its reopening during our second term, and build on the 'be your best self' activities programme for young people developed in close partnership with the management team.
- ✓ Continue working with and supporting our local greening groups to make the Blue greener and deliver more improvements such as the current scheme to enhance the historic Shuttleworth Park.
- ✓ Develop further interventions along the Blue Bermondsey stretch of the Low Line as a key partner in this pioneering urban regeneration initiative.



_Low_Line

SAY YES



Improvements to Shuttleworth Park



It had long been acknowledged locally that the Blue Market was a crucial asset, that was capable of becoming a unifying space and an economic driver for the area as a whole. However, after years of neglect Market Place had become run down and not fit for purpose.

Therefore in 2019 when Blue Bermondsey in partnership with economic regeneration charity Big Local Works successfully applied for £2m GLA funding for the Made in Bermondsey regeneration programme, the focus was the rejuvenation of Market Place to support and stimulate the growth of existing and new activities in a public space which can function in multiple scenarios and as a coherent whole.

- ✓ New and improved facilities to make market trading more accessible and low cost.
- ✓ Fixed Canopies for trading on market days and flexible activities at other times.
- ✓ New Clock Tower, paying homage to the iconic clock tower that was part of the old Peek Frean's biscuit factory. Including public drinking fountain.
- ✓ New Linear lighting columns within planting areas and ambient lighting to create a safer, better illuminated night time environment.
- ✓ New green spaces with denser areas of nature alongside more attractive seating areas.
- ✓ New attractive signage and graphics surrounding Market Place to create more awareness.
- ✓ Renovation of Big Local Works office to create an employment and training hub.
- ✓ New Arched Cut Through aligned with the planned pedestrian route through Bombay St railway arches into the new Biscuit Factory housing development, that longer term, will link with the Biscuit Factory and create a direct route to and from Bermondsey tube.



YOUR VOTE COUNTS

The wider programme included shopfront makeovers, new Santander cycle station, new area wide signage, new community artworks, including two large scale community murals celebrating the Blue's industrial heritage and culture.

A new pedestrian crossing and pocket park at the junction of St James's Road and Blue Anchor Lane created a new walking and cycling connection with the Low Line, supported by the planting of new trees and hedging.

All aspects of the project were judiciously considered and designed in collaboration with the community and arrange of stakeholders following over 700 responses gathered via a multitude of public forums and workshops over an 18 month period.

As project partners and local leaders both Blue Bermondsey BID and Big Local Works have a responsibility to ensure the project fulfils its longer-term ambitions and together in a strengthened partnership we have formed the Made in Bermondsey legacy collaboration group.

This group is dedicated to building on the accomplishments with further interventions towards making the Blue the thriving centre of civic and commercial life, that is fit to meet future opportunities.



The People's Mural



New pocket park & pedestrian crossing



St James's Arch - Low Line Mural

BUSINESS & COMMUNITY

With the business levy contribution and backing we have gone from strength to strength and honed our operations.

In a third term we will carry on doing what works and where there are weaknesses we will enhance our operations in line with what we have learnt from the constructive feedback from our businesses and also the local community.

Local people are likely to be customers or employees of our businesses and what they feel and know about their neighbourhood is vital, and sustained closer collaboration will be pursued in a third term of operation.

We have developed mutually beneficial partnerships with a diverse range of local community stakeholders such as: youth service providers, tenants/resident's associations, action groups, charities, voluntary groups, schools, and individuals.

Co-operating together we have been sturdier and better equipped to meet challenges and embrace new opportunities.

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We have developed projects and initiatives and gained funding to 'make things happen' that have yielded positive and tangible change, whilst being tied in to an overarching long term vision.

By voting yes at the renewal ballot, you can ensure that we are able to deliver this vision, hand in hand with our local community partners and all do 'our bit' to make our little corner of the world a better place.

SAY YES



together we are stronger

COMMUNITY PARTNER PROFILE

All of our community partnerships are highly valued, since working extensively together on the Made in Bermondsey project, we have identified Big Local Works as a key collaborator whose work in the community has opened many doors.



As a community-focused economic inclusion and regeneration charity, Big Local Works was founded to support people in the South Bermondsey area.

Their main objective is to help create a thriving, inclusive local economy, and a community in which everyone has the opportunity to be involved in sharing economic benefits that arise or are created.

To facilitate this they provide training and advice to amplify the financial and economic wellbeing of individuals with packages of ongoing support to assist in sustainable and active routes out of poverty through employment and small-scale start-up enterprise schemes.

This is all the more important during this time of intensive local regeneration and massive new housing developments in the local area. to show there are genuine pathways to a better more prosperous future for local people from all backgrounds.

MADE IN BERMONDSEY

LEGACY PROJECTS

BLUE MARKET MANAGEMENT

On completion of the Made in Bermondsey project, we supported Big Local Works, to gain the licence to take over management of the Blue Market from Southwark Council. Together we are reinventing the market offer focused on local enterprise and community activity and have recently launched the 'Made in Bermondsey' market barrow. This is an opportunity for local businesses or enterprising individuals to take the reins of a traditional market barrow at zero cost to sell products or showcase their business or venture in a different way.



THE LOW LINE

Blue Bermondsey is a member of the Low Line partnership group consisting of Better Bankside, Team London Bridge, Borough Market, The Arch Co, alongside Southwark Council who have led on exploring the huge potential of the ancient railway viaduct that has spanned Bankside, London Bridge and Bermondsey for over 150 years. Together we delivered several strands of work geared towards joining up the different neighbourhoods along its length. We want to facilitate a better spread of economic prosperity by utilising the arches and adjacent sites to be more attractive destinations. As part of this work Blue Bermondsey has gained funding to open a 'test bed' arch to accommodate start-up businesses and community uses.



GREENING THE BLUE

As a key local stakeholder, we recognise the important part that we can play in enhancing our green spaces and encouraging better green connections. We have teamed up with local greening group, 'Trees for Bermondsey' to form the 'Greening the Blue' alliance with the long term objective to not only bring improvements to existing spaces such as the current Shuttleworth Park renovations but also identify new locations where projects could be implemented to link up with the aspirations to develop green corridors along and around the Low Line, which casts its mighty shadow over Shuttleworth Park.



Since our inception, the Blue Bermondsey BID has encouraged and supported us, from helping to fund our website to providing space on the marketplace and advertising our workshops with the community. Currently the BID, along with BOST, Southwark Council and the GLA are partnering with us on the transformation of Shuttleworth Park and have given invaluable advice and practical support. The BID is responsible for so much positive work and energy in Bermondsey, and for a volunteer-led local charity like ours, provides a reassuring, independent presence in The Blue.

Sarah Vaughn - Trees For Bermondsey

THE BALLOT



The renewal ballot will be conducted by Southwark Council’s Electoral Services team to ensure a free and fair ballot.

You will receive your ballot paper(s) by post on or around by Tuesday 24th October 2023.*

If you have more than one property, complete one ballot paper for each property you are responsible for, with each ballot paper returned in a separate envelope.

When you have completed the ballot paper it must be returned by post in the pre-paid envelope with the ballot voting period.

00

October

30

MONDAY

The ballot voting period will run from:
Monday 30th October until 5pm on Thursday 23rd November 2023

00

November

23

THURSDAY

The result of the ballot will be announced on Friday 24th November 2023

Each person entitled to vote shall have one vote in respect of each eligible hereditament (property) occupied, or (if unoccupied) owned by them in the proposed geographical area of the BID.

A successful renewal ballot will have to meet two criteria:

- 1. A majority of those voting must vote in favour.
- 2. Those voting in favour must represent a majority of the aggregate rateable value of the properties that voted.

Businesses or organisations within the BID area - including Southwark Council, occupying premises with a rateable value of £7,500 or greater will be eligible to vote in the BID ballot and will be required to pay the levy.

Following a successful renewal ballot the new BID term will be for 5 years from 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2029, at which point there will need to be another renewal ballot.

The legislative framework governing Business Improvement Districts is contained in Business Improvement District (England) Regulations 2004.

***Please email our BID manager if you don’t receive you ballot paper: russell@bluebermondsey.co.uk**

THE LEVY

The levy for Blue Bermondsey will remain unchanged at 1.25% of the rateable value for each business premises as detailed in the current non-Domestic Rating List.

Blue Bermondsey is funded primarily through the levy, and this will supplemented with external funding, which we expect to be in the region of £30,000 per year.

The levy is ring fenced for operations and services in the BID area, which must be additional to those provided by the Council. This is safeguarded through a baseline agreement which sets out the level of service provided by them.

The levy will continue to be collected by Southwark Council on behalf of the BID for an admin fee of 3.5% of the total collected.

The levy for empty premises will be charged to the ratepayer and those premises occupied by registered charities or schools will receive a 50% reduction.

All businesses eligible to vote will also be eligible to get involved in the governance of the Blue Bermondsey BID

To calculate the annual BID levy payable, simply multiply the rateable value of your business premises by 0.0125
Charities or Schools multiply the rateable value by 0.00625

INDICATIVE EXAMPLES

Rateable Value	Annual BID Levy at 1.25%
£7,500	£93.75
£10,000	£125.00
£15,000	£187.50
£30,000	£375.00
£50,000	£625.00
£100,000	£1,250.00
£200,000	£2,500.00
£500,000	£6,250.00

THE BUDGET



The number of properties or hereditaments within the Blue Bermondsey BID are around 400 and the BID levy contribution will be circa £104,000 per annum, plus a projected £30,000 additional income generated from external funding sources, based on our proven track record.

We will be clear and transparent about how funds are spent, making annual financial reports available to our business on request, at our AGM and on our website.

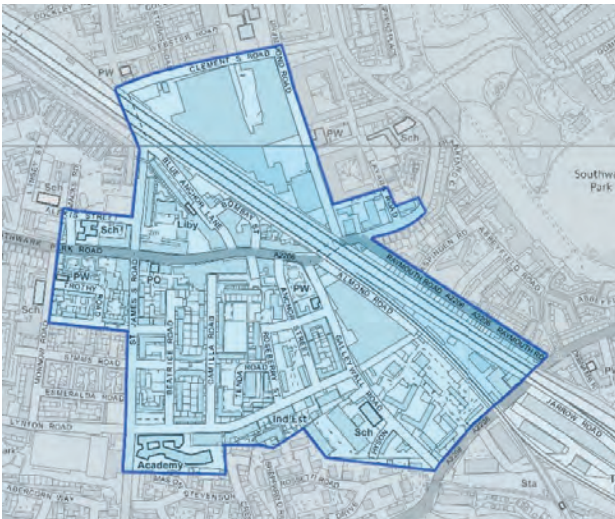
The table below indicates how the levy will be allocated towards our operations; however, it is our duty to be responsive to change throughout the BID term and ongoing business engagement will determine any revisions to meet evolving business needs.

INDICATIVE ANNUAL INCOME

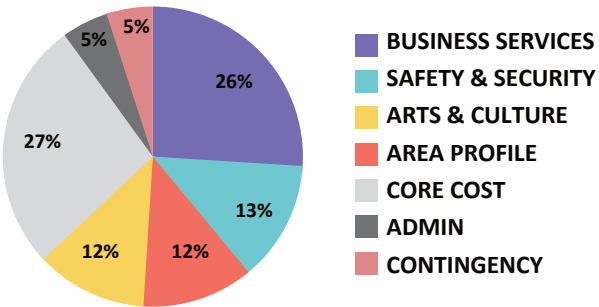
BID Levy to be collected	£104,000.00
BID Levy (@95% collection)	£98,800.00
Expected external funding	£30,000.00
Total	£128,800.00

INDICATED ANNUAL EXPENDITURE

Business Services	£32,500.00
Safety & Security	£17,000.00
Area Profile	£15,000.00
Arts & Culture	£15,000.00
Core Cost	£35,000.00
Admin	£6,500.00
Contingency	£6,440.00
Total	£127,440.00



The BID area will remain the same as shown in the map



Figures are based on expenditure during current BID term.

- The Total BID Levy assumes a 95% collection rate.
- Contingency fund of 5% is included.
- The core costs include 25% from external funding.
- Admin includes: Accounting/IT/Printing/Stationary/ Banking/Collection cost/Insurance.
- Any surplus to be carried into next financial year.
- The BID operates out of free office space, saving money for project delivery.
- A five year estimated cashflow is available on request.

MAKE IT HAPPEN SAY YES

Blue Bermondsey BID has played a pivotal role in bringing local businesses and the community together to take action that benefits everyone at the Blue.

We have demonstrated over two terms that our work has given local business a strong representative voice that has made a significant contribution to improving our district. Yet there is so much more we can achieve with your backing at our renewal ballot.

We ask you to support these proposals and vote yes for a genuine locally led business partnership that only exists for the betterment of local businesses.

Without a BID all will be lost, and the ballot is your chance to secure Blue Bermondsey BID's future and make these proposals a reality.

A 'YES' vote is a vote to maintain a representative business body working for the betterment of your business and the place you do your business.

together we are stronger

Timeline

✓ TUESDAY 24th OCTOBER

Ballot papers received

✓ MONDAY 30th OCTOBER

Voting period begins



Ballot papers completed and returned by post in the pre-paid envelope

✓ THURSDAY 23rd NOVEMBER

Voting period ends at 5pm

✓ FRIDAY 24th NOVEMBER

Ballot result announced

THE BLUE
BERMONDSEY