CATHEDRAL QUARTER DERBY

BID **RENEWAL** FAQs

DERBY BID

Bringing Cathedral Quarter and St Peters Quarter together

What is a BID?

A Business Improvement District (BID) is a defined geographical area where businesses vote to invest collectively in local improvements that enhance the trading environment.

BIDs operate under national legislation and are business-led organisations governed by a Board made up of local business representatives.

BIDs deliver projects and services that are additional to those provided by local authorities and public bodies, ensuring levy payers receive added value and targeted investment.

What is Derby BID?

Derby BID is the proposal to bring together Derby's two existing Business Improvement Districts, Cathedral Quarter BID and St Peters Quarter BID, under one unified structure, representing a larger area of Derby that also includes the emerging Becketwell quarter.

Key benefits of Derby BID for businesses

- Stronger representation with Derby City Council, Derbyshire Police, East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA) and strategic partners
- Better value from levy investment through reduced duplication and increased efficiency
- Greater investment in safety, cleansing, marketing and events
- Increased opportunities to attract external funding and investment
- A unified vision and stronger city-centre identity
- Continued recognition of the distinct character of areas such as the Cathedral Quarter

How is the BID funded?

BIDs are funded through a levy paid by eligible businesses following a successful ballot.

This creates a dedicated investment fund controlled by businesses and reinvested directly into agreed priorities and projects.

What does a BID deliver?

Examples of BID activity include business crime reduction initiatives, Rangers, marketing campaigns, events, floral installation, Christmas lighting, business networking, advocacy and partnership working.

THE ROAD TO ONE COMBINED DERBY BID

SUMMER 2026:
- Consultation and surveys
- Development of priorities and draft Business Plan

AUTUMN 2026:
- Further consultation and refinement
- Independent ballot of businesses

APRIL 2027:
- Derby BID commences for SPQ businesses

MARCH 2028:
- Cathedral Quarter formally joins Derby BID

Why now?

With changing economic conditions, local government reform and increasing demand for simplicity and value, now is the right time to create a single, joined-up BID structure. Industry guidance from British BIDs and examples from other cities support this approach as recognised best practice.

The timing is also important. St Peters Quarter BID's current term naturally comes to an end on 31st March 2027, meaning a ballot would need to take place in any case if BID services were to continue in the area. Bringing forward the Derby BID proposal provides businesses with the opportunity to consider a unified city-centre BID model at the point of renewal, rather than renewing St Peters Quarter BID for a further five-year term and revisiting the question again at the next renewal period.

A successful ballot would allow for a planned and seamless transition, providing certainty for businesses and ensuring continuity of services, projects and investment across the city centre. It also avoids the need for businesses to consider significant structural change midway through a BID term, enabling long-term planning and delivery from the outset.

How will businesses shape the future?

The Derby BID proposal will be shaped through consultation, surveys and direct engagement with businesses. No final decisions on priorities, projects or levy arrangements will be made without extensive business input.

Is the BID levy optional?

If a BID ballot is successful, the levy applies across the defined BID area in line with the agreed levy rules.

That is why the ballot matters so much. It is the formal opportunity for levy payers to decide whether the proposal should go ahead.

What happens if businesses vote yes?

A successful ballot will enable the creation of Derby BID, providing stronger representation, greater efficiency and a long-term framework for investment across Derby city centre.

As St Peters Quarter BID would naturally come to an end on 31st March 2027, following a successful ballot St Peters Quarter BID businesses would become part of the new Derby BID on 1st April 2027 and follow the levy arrangements and governance structure set out within the Derby BID Business Plan.

Cathedral Quarter BID businesses would continue under your existing BID term until it ends on 28th February 2028, before joining Derby BID on 1st March 2028.

Throughout the transition period, both BIDs would continue operating as normal, delivering projects, events and business support. Businesses should continue to expect the same level of service, representation and investment in the city centre, with Derby BID building on the successful work already undertaken by both Cathedral Quarter BID and St Peters Quarter BID. For all practical purposes, BID activity across the city centre would remain fully operational, ensuring continuity for businesses, visitors and stakeholders alike.

Will I have to pay more?

No, we have considered costs for our businesses, and we plan to start Derby BID at lower rates than are currently being paid. For those businesses already paying a levy, we will be reducing your current levy percentage which will mean you will pay less when joining Derby BID. If your rateable value (RV) is £8,000 or above you will pay 2.35% of your RV. For those between £3,000-£7,999 (RV) you'll pay £10 per month.

What should businesses do now?

Stay informed, take part in the conversation, ask questions and look out for more information as the proposal develops.

This is an opportunity to help shape the future direction of Derby city centre.

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