

ALDGATE CONNECT

Overview of Projects & Expenditure for 2023/24

Proposed Plan & Budget for 2024/25

ALDGATE CONNECT

Welcome everyone



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Introduction

In January 2020, businesses and ratepayers across Aldgate were asked to vote on whether they would like to see a Business Improvement District (BID) established in the area to deliver on the projects and improvements that were set out in the BID Proposal.

The BID is funded by a local business levy and this in turn is spent by the levy payers on improvements in the local area.

A BID is established based on two demands: a majority of actual votes and the majority of aggregate rateable value (RV). For the Aldgate Connect BID, 92.4% businesses and 94% by RV were in favour of the BID.

The role of a BID is to provide added value above and beyond the statutory duties of the City of London Corporation, Tower Hamlets Council, Transport for London, and other public bodies. As a not-for-profit company directed by a voluntary board of local businesses, the BID gives the business community an opportunity to have a voice in defining, funding, and overseeing the projects that you feel will add value to Aldgate.

The Aldgate Connect BID team values the continued support from its business community, and we encourage you to take full advantage of all projects and services coming up this year. As always, your input, thoughts, and feedback are very welcome. We look forward to continuing to work with you in the year ahead.

We give the business community an opportunity to have a voice in defining, funding and overseeing the projects that you feel will add value to the locality.



Overview of the year

From welcoming more workers and visitors back to the area, to setting world records, 2023/24 has been a fantastic year of success for the BID and its business community. It is the continued engagement and input from local businesses that has resulted in the accomplishment of hugely successful BID initiatives and projects over the past 12 months.

Aligning to our four key themes and focus areas, Aldgate Connect has implemented an annual calendar of activities and schemes that aim to support local businesses, increase visitor numbers, and strengthen the economy and the community of Aldgate. Our focus has been on championing Aldgate as a 'must visit' London destination, promoting its truly unique offering whilst exploring public realm improvements and a range of events that enhance the footprint.

The past year has still brought challenges for London businesses, as we all try to navigate new ways of working and economic challenges. The BID has sensitively navigated these, delivering added value to the business community through training opportunities, employee support workshops, community building activities, and much more. With consistent strong support from local authorities and Aldgate's businesses and community, we're confident that we can build on these strong foundations and achievements in the upcoming year.

The Aldgate Connect BID Board once again chose not to apply an inflationary increase for

the forthcoming year. Though this impacts our budgets as laid out in the BID 5-year Business Plan, we felt it would be beneficial to our business community that we scale our budgets accordingly.

This document sets out the Billing Overview of Projects & Expenditure for the BID year 2023/24, as well as the proposed Delivery Plan & Budget for 2024/25. Please do get in touch if you have any questions on this document.

As the BID's first 5-year term draws to a close, we're excited to announce that we will be seeking a second term for 2025-2030. Within this second term, we will be looking to build on the incredible work delivered by the Aldgate Connect BID Team in the past five years, developing new business initiatives and projects to develop the local area further. For our second term, we will outline an ambitious plan of action, with a portfolio of exciting projects that will deliver across all four of our key strategic themes. We look forward to sharing these plans with you in the coming months and working with our levy paying business community to further enhance Aldgate's reputation as a leading London destination.

Thank you for your continued support



Making the District More Appealing

OUR YEAR'S AMBITION: To promote and implement public realm improvements that suit the businesses and community and help to restore and reshape the area to be fit for people to move around safely and securely, whilst enlivening it as a place to be in and relax.

ALDGATE'S PUBLIC REALM VISION AND STRATEGY

The BID began implementation of short and long-term projects outlined in and derived from the Aldgate Connect Public Realm Vision & Strategy. This document aims to improve the area raising its urban attractiveness, cultural value and making it a destination in its own right, under one unified goal:

*'To Establish **Aldgate** in its **Iconic Location** as a well-connected, **Cohesive Community** known for its intricate **Network of Green Spaces**, and celebration of its unique **Artistic and Cultural Heritage**.'*

For this to happen, the strategy defines 4 fundamentals:

- A well-connected district supported by multiple active modes of transport.
- Spaces for art, culture, and social exchange.
- Improve the quality of existing open spaces and introduce new public areas to form a meaningful green-space network.
- Enhance settings and celebrate heritage assets.

The Aldgate Connect Public Realm Vision & Strategy outlines key priority projects for the defined character areas. Over the past year, we commenced work on the 'Gateway to Aldgate', 'Vine Street' and 'Petticoat Lane' character area priority projects.

2023/24 **Appealing** Projects

Total year spend: £205,974

GATEWAY TO ALDGATE & VINE STREET CHARACTER AREAS

We began the development of the **improvement designs** for the railway arch gateway leading into the Vine Street Character Area, working closely with key stakeholders, local authorities, and the wider community. The gateway is positioned on top of the site of the old **Roman City Wall**; therefore, we are looking at potential ways that the improvement designs can reflect the rich history of the area bringing it to life through creative and visually attractive concepts, with improved lighting being an integral part of the project.

IN 2024/25... Upon the completion of the design development, we will continue to work with the local authorities and key stakeholders to begin the process of **implementation of the designs** into the railway arch, as well as looking at developing a **programme of activation** for the whole character area. This will form the beginning of a series of improvements to the railway arches along the southern boundary to Aldgate, making the Gateway to Aldgate brighter, safer, and more welcoming.

PETTICOAT LANE GOES DIGITAL

We continued developing out the Petticoat Lane brand, with a vision to reinvigorate this iconic, historic area and its shops, restaurants, and market offering. This has included the development of a **dedicated website**, showcasing the individual businesses, market stalls, must-see spots, hidden gems, and exciting community projects. The website, along with an extensive **social media strategy** launched in early 2024, with the goal of driving footfall to the area and providing an online presence for the area.

IN 2024/25... A **programme of events and activations** will support the website and social media strategy, encouraging workers, residents, and visitors to explore Petticoat Lane further and increase the visibility of Petticoat Lane as a key visitor destination in London.

PETTICOAT LANE'S MIDDLESEX STREET

We produced a **feasibility strategy** for Middlesex Street South, looking at potential development of the area into a well-designed shared space supporting the local hospitality businesses, whilst also accommodating for vehicular usage, outdoor dining, and improved public realm.

Working with the City of London Corporation, we brightened up the Middlesex Street Estate through the painting of the run-down and graffitied **retail shutters**, using the Petticoat Lane brand colours.

Through the Aldgate Connect Community Fund, we funded a **bio-diversity project** that sees a behaviour change education programme and the installation of bird boxes for the residents in the Middlesex Street Estate, due to be delivered in Spring/Summer 2024.

IN 2024/25... We will continue to support the City of London and Tower Hamlets local authorities in their ambition for the area and explore possible opportunities for the improvement of the street.

CLEANSING & ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTING - ALDGATE AMBASSADORS

The Aldgate BID Ambassadors have continued their key work in reporting of cleansing and environmental issues to the local authorities. In 2023/24 they reported **2,365 cleansing issues and 451 environmental issues***, which have proven vital in the resolution of such issues by the local authorities. These reports included uncollected waste, overflowing bins, graffiti, street furniture, abandoned vehicles, broken paving, unkempt roadworks and more.

IN 2024/25... The Aldgate BID Ambassadors will continue their key role in making Aldgate a greener and cleaner place for all, working closely in partnership with the local authorities and providing real-time key issue reporting, helping to target local hotspot areas.

*Based on statistics taken at the time of report (1st April 2023 - 31st January 2024).



SUPPORTING ALDGATE'S PUBLIC SPACES

Public spaces in urban areas are vital to the wellbeing of those who work, live and study here, and our varied programme of activities has continued to enrich and enliven Aldgate's green and open spaces.

- **Aldgate Square:** Our **Aldgate Sounds** live lunchtime music returned to Aldgate Square across the summer, accompanied by **Morph's Epic Art Adventure**, a creative sculpture art trail which brought thousands of new visitors into the area in support of the Whizz Kidz charity.
 - **Mallon Gardens:** We partnered with **London Festival of Architecture (LFA)** to deliver the 'On Tenterground' creative installation into Mallon Gardens, which was activated by a programme of community events ran by students from London Metropolitan University.
 - **The Crescent:** We brought the **Padel Tennis Festival** to Aldgate, in partnership with Central London Alliance and EC BID. The pop-up Padel court aimed to provide a unique experience to encourage workers back to the workplace, as well as increasing footfall, dwell time and spend into the area.
 - **Braham Street Park:** We supported Transport for London and Tower Hamlets Council in the development of the western part of the park and the unveiling of London's Transport Workers Coronavirus Memorial situated in the park.
- IN 2024/25...** We will continue to support our **creative vision for placemaking** by activating Aldgate's key public spaces through our seasonal cultural event programming, with a series of events and activations including Summer in Aldgate, London Festival of Architecture (LFA), and Aldgate in Winter Festival.

CLIMATE ACTION & NET ZERO

We saw the realisation of the **Aldgate Connect Community Fund** outcomes through which we have supported **7 climate action projects**, particularly looking at providing educational workshops for climate action and sustainable energy, as well as skills training for the repurposing of fashion garments.

We partnered with Artsadmin on their climate action festival, **'What Shall We Build Here?'**. The 5-day hyperlocal performance festival took place in and around Toynbee Studios in Aldgate, as well as activating public realm areas across east London. The festival featured work by some of the world's most pioneering artists in the field of climate action and climate justice, across 40 events: including an ACT Symposium, workshops, interactive installations, exhibition, and Community Climate Champions.

The BID continued promoting and aligning with the local authorities' climate change, biodiversity and air quality strategies and aspirations, as well as their events and seminars. This included supporting of the Clean City Awards Scheme, through the BID's sponsorship of **City of London's Plastic Free Award**, encouraging companies to be innovative in the way they implement plastic free business practices.

IN 2024/25... We will be launching a second edition of the **Aldgate Connect Community Fund** following the success of the already supported local climate action projects. We will continue supporting the local authorities in their climate action goals, including through the support of the City of London's **Clean City Awards Scheme** and encouraging Aldgate's business to take part and showcase their efforts towards their plastic free business practices.





Welcoming People In

OUR YEAR'S AMBITION: Aldgate carries forward its recovery to be a strong, creative, and entrepreneurial area for residents and businesses; a hotbed for new and emerging talent and businesses. Its creativity and vibrancy will blossom as people start moving around the area once more.

As we all continue to navigate and adapt to everchanging ways of working and economic pressures, it is now more important than ever that Aldgate remains a leading visitor destination. Our priority has been on driving increased footfall across the area, whilst providing a unique offering that encourages workers back to the office.

An annual calendar of free events, activities, and flagship BID projects has helped to promote the area further. We're pleased to see consistently high office and hotel occupancy rates across Aldgate, showcasing the area's appeal to workers and visitors.

2023/24 Welcoming Projects

Total year spend: £168,451

DIGITAL HUB FOR ALDGATE

We continued to utilise the **aldgateconnect.london** website as a platform for showcasing local events, news, business updates, and BID projects & initiatives. The website has become the go-to platform for all things Aldgate, with dedicated spaces for Aldgate's businesses and community projects to showcase their work and opportunities.

IN 2024/25... We will explore further developments on the site, including the creation of a **seasonal campaign** landing page, helping to improve promotion of local businesses, events, and projects. This will continue to champion Aldgate as a must-visit destination, and showcase the area to workers, residents, and visitors alike.

EXPERIENCE ALDGATE

We have helped to build on Aldgate's reputation as an exciting destination to live, work, and visit, with a **curated area guide** to promote the best of the area. The 'Experience Aldgate' guide launched in January 2024, with an extensive distribution strategy in place that will see the guide stocked in key tourist information centres, visitor points, hotels, community spaces, and more.

We have continued to run **monthly tours** of Aldgate and its surroundings for the hotel concierge staff in the area, to provide them with the ability to showcase the best that Aldgate has to offer with their visitors and colleagues.

IN 2024/25... We will continue to promote the area guide both through print and digital channels. Our London-wide **distribution strategy** will ensure Aldgate remains front-of-mind as a leading visitor destination.

WELCOMING & INFORMATION SERVICE - ALDGATE AMBASSADORS

As part of the BID's dedicated on-ground service, the Aldgate BID Ambassadors provide a 5-day weekly welcoming presence & information guidance for all, as well as conducting essential business and residential visits, updating on BID events and initiatives,

or reporting business queries back to the BID Team. In 2023/24, the ambassadors have **welcomed and informed 12,344 visitors** and conducted **163 business visits**.*

IN 2024/25... The Aldgate Ambassadors will continue their hard work welcoming and informing those who need it in the area, as well as being the on-ground presence for the local businesses.



CITY GIFT CARD

The City Gift Card was developed in collaboration with the other City of London BIDs and aims to lock spending into the Square Mile by encouraging local employees to spend with local businesses. Since the project began, over **3,300 cards have been produced with a collective value of over £84,000**. This year, the already popular **City Gift Card has undergone a rebrand**, accompanied by a corporate campaign aimed at increasing card purchases from corporate businesses.

IN 2024/25... We aim to continue working with the other City BIDs to further drive involvement from local retail, hospitality, and leisure businesses in the scheme. We will continue to engage with local businesses to encourage them to adopt the City Gift Card as part of their **rewards & incentives** programmes for their staff.

IN THE CITY APP

The In The City App is a platform which allows local bars, restaurants, shops, and venues in the City of London to share offers, discounts and events for their business. The app now has more than **2,700 registered users**, with over **140 local businesses** showcasing their offers & discounts, and over **300 local events** being promoted across London.

IN 2024/25... we will continue to collaborate with the other City BIDs to promote the app, with the push of a bespoke 'go-to-market' campaign, focusing on signing up new businesses and encouraging new user downloads.

MARKETING AND COMMUNICATION

We have seen continued growth across our **social media channels**, with strong user engagement across Instagram, X, and LinkedIn. These platforms have been utilised to promote updates and opportunities across Aldgate and wider London, as well as to showcase our seasonal campaigns including the Summer in Aldgate Event Programme and the Aldgate in Winter Festival. We have also continued to distribute our **monthly newsletters** with the latest news & event updates, including special editions showcasing major BID initiatives and projects.

IN 2024/25... With dedicated marketing & communications support now in place, we will continue to build on our strategy for promoting Aldgate. This will see the continuation of **strong digital coverage**, as well as the exploration of additional channels, platforms, and partners.



BUSINESS AND PROMOTIONS ENGAGEMENT

Throughout 2023/24, the BID team have developed and deployed **multi-channel campaigns** to effectively promote everything that Aldgate has to offer, including showcasing the Christmas offering, best spots for Veganuary, and Spring offers as part of the Aldgate Egg Hunt.

The BID has also continued its partnership with **One City London**, ensuring brilliant promotion across their social channels which target a young working population across London. Our promotional work has also seen BID projects featured in **leading publications** including City Matters, City AM, Evening Standard and more.

IN 2024/25... Will see the launch of our partnership with **London & Partners**, the leading business growth and destination agency for London. This will ensure effective national and international promotion of Aldgate as a visitor destination. In addition to this, we will continue to work with our key destination partners across London to highlight Aldgate's incredible offering, utilising our key tagline of 'Welcome Everyone'.

*Based on statistics taken at the time of report (1st April 2023 - 31st January 2024).



Creating a Stronger Community

OUR YEAR'S AMBITION: Promote inclusive, sustainable economic and community growth, supporting equality of opportunities for SMEs and local people.

Aldgate is known for its rich heritage and culture, with a unique mix of local family-run businesses and a considerably larger resident population compared to neighbouring BID areas. It is the strong sense of community and togetherness that stands Aldgate apart. It is something that the BID has always championed, shining a light on businesses and resident communities across our work.

Over the past year, we have been able to implement schemes that support our business communities, helping to ensure they have the tools to face the current economic landscape. As well as driving business growth, the BID has supported a number of community projects and initiatives, ensuring equal opportunities for all.

2023/24 Stronger Projects

Total year spend: £134,081

COMMUNITIES & CULTURAL EVENTS

Our seasonal event programme has continued to grow in popularity, celebrating the best of Aldgate in partnership with workers, residents & businesses, as well as putting Aldgate on the map as a key visitor destination in London.

Aldgate in Winter Festival: We once again delivered this fantastic co-curated community festival in December, which brought Aldgate to life through a day-long programme of live performances, the return of the popular lantern parade, community feast, creative workshops and more.

Summer in Aldgate: The curated summer programme of activities in Aldgate included the return of Aldgate Sounds, London Festival of Architecture (LFA) and Artsadmin's 'What Shall We Build Here?' climate action festival, as well as new activations including the Padel Tennis Festival, Whitechapel Gallery's 'Life is More Important than Art' festival, and Morph's Epic Art Adventure.

Lord Mayor's Show: In November, we partnered with the City BIDs to bring the summer activation of Morph back into London. With Morph at the forefront, our joint float also celebrated the unique nature of BIDs and how they are reimagining the Square Mile.

Aldgate Egg Hunt: This wholesome seasonal activity returned and activated Aldgate's shop front windows, with a scavenger hunt style activity, encouraging participants to explore new areas of Aldgate with a chocolate reward at the last stop. In total we distributed 325 chocolate eggs to local workers, residents and visitors that took part, as well as a further 175 to the Food for Aldgate Foodbank. The activity also saw local hospitality businesses promoted through 9 bespoke offers on the In The City App.

Coronation Big Lunch: In May we supported the celebration of the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III in Aldgate Square, which included entertainment, food provisions and a special visit from the Lord Mayor of the City of London.

IN 2024/25... We will build upon our **seasonal event programme**, with the return of flagship projects including the Summer in Aldgate programme (with a special 'Summer of Sport' activation focus), Aldgate in Winter Festival and the Aldgate Egg Hunt, as well as a reimagining of additional community activities supporting the wellbeing of those who live, work, and visit Aldgate. All projects will consistently encourage the **'Joy Factor'** into the local area, a key metric established by the BID board.

COLLECTIVE VOICE FOR ALDGATE

We provided a collective voice for business members and the community of Aldgate on a wider scale, through communication with local and central governing authorities. We have continued our **high-level engagement**, responding to national consultations, planning forums, strategic boards & groups to help guide the vision for Aldgate. We were part of the conversation for the Mayor of London's 'off-peak Fridays' initiative to encourage workers and visitors alike to reimagine Friday and travel to the City more frequently.

We support and take part in pan London campaigns alongside the other BIDs to provide a louder voice at greater value. Through our partnerships with **Central London Alliance and London & Partners** we are working towards a strong economic recovery of central London, ensuring its continued viability as a leading global city.

IN 2024/25... We will continue to act as the collective voice in communicating with the local and central governing bodies, whilst leveraging our strategic partnerships for outward and inward messaging.



HEALTH, WELLBEING AND CONNECTING

Enhancing the wellbeing of those in Aldgate stays at the forefront of our initiatives, contributing to creating a stronger community for all.



Aldgate Gardening Club: Our very popular gardening sessions continued throughout the year, with the aim of boosting wellbeing and morale of workers and community members in Aldgate. The workshops continue to sell out quickly with a mailing list of over 200 people now signed up to receive notice of upcoming workshops.

Skills & Training: We have provided free Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training courses for workers in Aldgate to become certified MHFAiders, giving 12 individuals the skills to spot the signs of low **mental health** and how to best support individuals in the workplace. Additionally, the **Aldgate Connect Community Fund** supported 2 employability upskilling projects, which aided young people in CV and interview preparation, as well as Employability & Progression initiatives for those experiencing homelessness.

Networking & Connecting: Across the year we deliver and take part in opportunities that encourage networking and partnership for Aldgate's businesses. In 2023/24 we offered 7 networking opportunities, including The Passage Charity dinner, Clean City Awards Reception, and Centre for London Summer Drinks. The Padel Tennis Festival offered numerous networking opportunities, including awards ceremonies and a closing reception. During the festival, we were able to set a **new world record** for the most hours of continuous play of Padel Tennis. The event coincided with the City Giving Day and welcomed the Lord Mayor and other notable guests to congratulate the players on their achievement.

Good News Series: With the aim of inspiring and promoting wellbeing across Aldgate and further afield, the Good News Series, in collaboration with Charlotte Wiseman, has showcased wellbeing initiatives and positive contributions by local businesses and individuals.

IN 2024/25... We will continue to roll out initiatives that aim to boost the overall health and wellbeing of those who work and live in Aldgate through workshop sessions, training courses and the spreading of positive messages and best practice. Forming connections across Aldgate and beyond through regular networking opportunities will remain of high priority throughout the year.



VOLUNTEERING & RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS

The BID has continued to act as a broker between charitable organisations and local business and residents. In 2023/24 we facilitated over **25 positive community connections** in Aldgate, which include volunteering, donations, and training enquiries. We also promoted the BID's responsible business opportunities through pop up events in local buildings.

The Aldgate in Winter Festival offered **16 volunteering roles** for local workers across the day, including assisting with the lantern parade and community feast.

IN 2024/25... We will continue to support our local businesses and workers with the **responsible business objectives and initiatives**, offering more opportunities for staff and bringing genuine value and positive change to the local community of Aldgate.

SUPPORT FOR THE LOCAL FOOD SHORTAGE

The Aldgate area has deprivation levels that are among the top 20% in the UK, with local food shortage being highlighted as an issue even before Covid-19. The cost-of-living crisis has increased the demand on local food services for the most vulnerable in our society.

We supported **Providence Row** charity with the **food distribution service**, providing cooked meals for those experiencing homelessness, as well as to the local hostels. We also support the **Food for Aldgate Foodbank** by referring donations and volunteers, as well as providing them with a digital presence on our website.

We also supported **Toynbee Hall's Cost of Living Support** service, providing community advice and recommendation to those affected by the rising costs across the City of London and Tower Hamlets. The service supported over 1,220 people through the Generalist Advice and Debt Free Advice services, totalling to over 1,550 cases supported.

IN 2024/25... Whilst we are encouraging the narrative of the area being known for its good food and restaurants, we are incredibly

mindful that food poverty is still a genuine issue, therefore we will continue our work with Providence Row and Food for Aldgate Foodbank, supporting their mission to tackle food poverty and food waste in Aldgate.



PROMOTING DIVERSE & INCLUSIVE CREATIVITY

We supported **Whitechapel Gallery's youth programme**, Duchamp & Sons, a collective of young people from East London and beyond which aims at breaking down barriers for young people and enhancing their creative skills and potential for employment in the creative sector. In 2023, the collective curated the 'Escape the Slick' demonstration, an immersive exhibition space which rejected the slickness and polish of modern architecture and embraced comfort and self-expression, blurring the lines between public and private space.

IN 2023/24... We will continue to **support the Whitechapel Gallery's youth agenda** and encourage a new group of young people to be opened up to the world of arts, through the Duchamp & Sons collective, as well as through their programme which includes a Young Writer in Residence and a Young Creatives Night.





Keeping Everyone Protected

OUR YEAR'S AMBITION: Through a safe and secure network of businesses and community organisations coming together with the authorities, we will start to look at Aldgate being an owned space by the community; sharing knowledge and reporting crime to help create an area that people feel safe to be in and return to.

As ever, we continued to work closely with local police forces, Transport for London, and the local authorities to ensure Aldgate remains a safer and secure place for all. Business awareness and training has been central to our work in this area, with workshops and pop-up events to provide businesses with the latest advice, guidance, and resources. Our Aldgate Alerts Platform will continue to share relevant updates and information to our business and their staff.

The BID has also helped to support joint police patrols and improved business engagement procedures, ensuring more effective monitoring of the local area. Aldgate Connect has also spearheaded public realm activation and enhancement, exploring opportunities for future upgrades that have safety and security at their core. From improved lighting and walkways to better utilisation of public spaces. We will continue to partner with local authorities and relevant organisations to prioritise the safety of our businesses, residents, and visitors.

2023/24 Protected Projects

Total year spend: £152,024

ALDGATE ALERTS PLATFORM

We continued to disseminate urgent **instant messaging** alerts from the local authorities and on-ground intelligence to security professionals across our business community. The alerts included information on road closures, protest activity, fire alerts and more.

IN 2024/25... We plan to **expand the promotion of the platform** to workers and businesses across Aldgate, ensuring improved knowledge of the instant alerts and additional crime prevention and safety documentation.

BUSINESS CRIME REDUCTION

Collaborative Working: We have continued to schedule quarterly Safe & Secure Steering Group meetings to facilitate intelligence sharing and collaborative working, with particular focus on addressing key hotspot areas including Braham St Park and Underground Stations. The group is formed of local businesses and local authorities: including City of London Police, London Metropolitan Police, City of London Corporation, and London Borough of Tower Hamlets.

Training: As part of our cross-district work, in collaboration with the other City of London BIDs, we have hosted free **WAVE & 'Ask for Angela'** and **Crime Prevention** training sessions for our local businesses.

Perception of Safety: We conducted a widespread Safety Perception Survey, looking at identifying perceived hotspots and areas of improvement, as well as the safety priorities for the BID and local authorities. The survey received a representative sample of responses and key data has been passed on to the local police forces.

IN 2024/25... we will continue working on the outlined Business Crime Reduction projects, with collaborative and cross-district working staying at the heart of all projects. We are working on continuing to deliver vital activations and training sessions, with the aim of leaving a meaningful impact on the safety of Aldgate visitors, workers and residents.

BUSINESS SUPPORT - VAWG & NIGHT-SAFETY

In response to the Safety Perception Survey results and through feedback from our local authorities, we began developing the **Safer Paths** initiative with the aim of providing access to vital knowledge and expertise, best practice, and advice and support for **safety within businesses and beyond**.

The initiative has a special focus on raising awareness for and supporting Violence Against Women, Girls & Gender Diverse People (VAWG) initiatives, as well as through our involvement in the Greater London Authority's (GLA) Night Safety Charter.

IN 2024/25... We are working with the other City BIDs and key local authorities on **expanding the Safer Paths initiative** across the City and beyond, with the potential for the initiative to develop and include on-ground projects and activations beyond the business.



HOMELESSNESS & VULNERABILITY SUPPORT

Providence Row's Welcome Area and Resource Centre: The BID renewed funding for Providence Row's Welcome Area and Resource Centre for a third year, to continue their significant work meeting immediate needs and providing focused care for the most vulnerable in society. The funding supported over 1,200 people to have their vital needs met. The centre is the first point of contact at Providence Row and aims to encourage users to start their rehabilitation journey off the streets.

The London Walk: Alongside the other Central London BIDs, we are supporting The London Walk, a night-time mass participation event for charities helping homeless people in London. The event is organised by the London Homeless Collective and will be raising vital funds for homeless charities, following a route across Central London.

IN 2024/25... We will continue to support the key work of Providence Row and other homeless services to assist with underfunded programmes, whilst supporting the wellbeing of the area and the most vulnerable people within it.

Projected Budget

2023/24

	TOTAL (£)
BID Levy Income	699,980
Voluntary Income Grants and Sponsorship	51,000
Closing 2022-23 Reserves	466,098
TOTAL INCOME	1,217,078
An Appealing Area	205,974
A Welcoming Area	168,451
A Protected Area	152,024
A Stronger Area	134,081
Staffing and Overheads	171,347
Contingency	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	831,875
2023-24 Closing Reserves	385,202

* Based on full year forecasts made in February 2024

** Covered firstly by voluntary income

*** Closing reserves left for potential BID wind down cost

Planned Budget

2024/25

	TOTAL (£)
BID Levy Income	665,000
Voluntary Income Grants and Sponsorship	50,000
Closing 2023-24 reserves	385,202
TOTAL INCOME	1,100,202
An Appealing Area	263,580
A Welcoming Area	209,875
A Protected Area	169,685
A Stronger Area	125,135
Staffing and Overheads	164,175
Contingency	35,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	967,452
2024-25 Closing Reserves***	132,751

The Business Improvement District is cross borough and covers 2 boroughs- City Of London and L B Tower Hamlets.

Levy income derived from each borough equates to 69% and 31% respectively - spend is allocated to each borough accordingly.

Staffing and Overhead costs include statutory collection fees charged by both boroughs to administer BID Levy.

ALDGATE CONNEC

Welcome everyone

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