



ALDGATE CONNECT BID

Overview of Projects & Expenditure 2025/2026

Proposed Plan & Budget 2026/2027

**ALDGATE
CONNECT**

Welcome everyone



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Introduction

Aldgate Connect Business Improvement District (BID) is delighted to present our Billing Overview of Projects & Expenditure for 2025/26, as well as our proposed Delivery Plan and Budget for 2026/27.

Following our successful BID Ballot, which saw an impressive 94% of votes cast in favour of the BID by local businesses (95.9% by Rateable Value), we've made strong progress towards delivering our ambitious goals set out in our Business Plan for 2025-30.

The past year has been defined by an ambitious and wide-ranging programme of projects, with collaboration and a strong sense of community continuing to be at the heart of everything we do.

Aldgate's unique nature of spanning both the City of London and Tower Hamlets gives us a distinctive platform for partnership, connection, and shared ambition, helping to drive Aldgate's evolution and long-term prosperity.

This report provides an overview of how your levy funds have been allocated across the 2025/26 financial year, highlighting major achievements and the impact of our work. It also sets out the proposed priorities and budget for 2026/27. This budget assumes full levy collection, and each project reflects the needs and feedback of our local businesses.

We thank you, our businesses, for your continued support and commitment as we continue to move forward to deliver on our four Key Strategic Aims, to make Aldgate a more appealing, connected, safer, and welcoming place for everyone.

Aldgate,
welcome everyone.

Our Key Strategic Aims

Our projects and programmes have been collated into **four Key Strategic Aims**:

Making the District More **Appealing**

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.

Creating a **Connected Community**

To bring joy to the people of Aldgate; promoting inclusive and sustainable prosperity, supporting equality of opportunities for SMEs and local people.

Shaping a **Safer Aldgate**

To enhance safety and resilience in the area and the people within through partnership and collaboration; building programmes to support those in need and enhance the sense of wellbeing in the district.

Welcoming People In

To spotlight Aldgate as a strong, dynamic, and entrepreneurial area, attracting visitors, residents and businesses, continuing to grow as a hotbed for emerging talent and opportunity.



BUDGET: £379,676

Making the District More Appealing

OUR AMBITION: 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.

IMPLEMENTING THE ALDGATE CONNECT PUBLIC REALM VISION & STRATEGY HIGHLIGHTS:

- Improvement of the Vine Street Character Area
- Expanded Petticoat Lane activations
- Ground Floor Use Report

We've continued to make progress towards making vital improvements across Aldgate. This included finalising the recommended enhancements for the Vine Street area, both in the short and longer-term.

In the short term, we were proud to deliver the Stories of Aldgate Exhibition, with the support of the City of London Corporation's Community Infrastructure Levy Neighbourhood Fund, bringing new vibrancy to the Vine Street area. This audio-visual exhibition showcased 10 inspiring stories from across Aldgate, as well

as contributions from the Migration Museum, London Metropolitan University, Blue Orchid Hospitality, and Urbanest. The activation gathered insights and feedback and will pave the way for future long-term improvements.

We are collaborating with the Colombian Coffee Company to transform an area of public realm in Petticoat Lane, as part of NLA's London Festival of Architecture. We ran a competition to commission designs to create a pocket park in Goulston Street in Summer 2026.

The Ground Floor Use Study has been commissioned as a joint piece of work between the City BIDs and the City of London Corporation. The study looks to give an understanding of how to better shape and enhance the ground level experience in the City and will recommend next steps. The project engaged a cross-section of stakeholders,

including property owners, agents, cultural institutions, among others.

ENHANCE & ENRICH PUBLIC SPACE

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Sculpture in the City
- Sporting Installations
- Petticoat Lane Activations

Aldgate opened its streets to host several engaging public installations. In April, we joined Central London BIDs to take part in The Big Egg Hunt organised by The Elephant Family, bringing a large egg sculpture named 'Gertrude' to Aldgate Square. We also supported the 14th edition of Sculpture in the City, by sponsoring 'The Kissing Gate' by Maya Rose Edwards to remain in Aldgate Square.

We also supported Petticoat Lane with a range of fun activities from the Conker Challenge to Young Trader's Market competition, alongside a collaboration 'Market Challenge' project with London Metropolitan University's students.

Another highlight included the return of Sports Fest in Aldgate, delivered in partnership with Central London Alliance's London Sports Festival, which brought two sporting installations including Padel Table Tennis and Bucketball to the area. Over 5,395 people attended the activations.

Through our investment in footfall counting analytics across our BID, we have been able to provide strategic data to track how people are engaging with the area.

ON-STREET CLEANSING SUPPORT HIGHLIGHTS:

- Cleansing audit
- Aldgate Ambassador reporting

Our Aldgate BID Ambassadors continue to be our on-ground presence, supporting the appeal of the area through the reporting of cleansing and environmental issues to the local authorities. In 2025/26 they reported 638 cleansing and 14,804 environmental issues, which included uncollected waste, overflowing bins, graffiti, unkempt street furniture/roadworks, abandoned hire bikes, broken paving, and more.

We also commissioned a report from Keep Britain Tidy to identify what additional cleansing is needed for the area.

CHAMPION CLIMATE ACTION TOGETHER HIGHLIGHTS:

- Aldgate Community Fund
- Active Travel including Love to Ride
- Sponsorship of Clean City Awards Scheme

We continued our successful partnership with Love to Ride to create a bespoke page for Aldgate, with the core aims of promoting active travel and encouraging people to cycle. Since launch, we've seen 5,446 rides by 65 riders from 21 workplaces, which is equivalent to 5,324 kg CO² saved.

Once again, we supported the City of London Corporation's Clean City Awards Scheme, with a joint sponsorship of the Plastic Free City Award category, encouraging more businesses to think about innovative ways to reduce their use of plastic.





BUDGET: £198,315

Creating a Connected Community

OUR AMBITION: To bring joy to the people of Aldgate; promoting inclusive and sustainable prosperity, supporting equality of opportunities for SMEs and local people.

HEALTH & WELLBEING

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Mental Health First Aid courses
- Aldgate Gardening Club
- Refresh Festival

We delivered several wellbeing programmes throughout the year including Mental Health First Aid accredited training with 26 people certified. The Aldgate Gardening Club continues to draw people from across the area with 97 people engaged throughout the year.

A highlight of the year was Refresh, our three-week programme of wellbeing workshops and events, which included 19 activities, two wellness lunch talks, walking tours, nine webinars, cycle pop-ups, and wellbeing workshops. We saw over 233 people take part with an enjoyment rating of 4.8 out of 5.

We were also pleased to join Music in Offices to support the City of Women Choir's performance in Devonshire Square and celebrate International Women's Day 2026.

CONNECTING OUR THRIVING COMMUNITIES

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Diversity and inclusion programme
- Ambassador liaison with local businesses
- Networking opportunities

We supported Devonshire Square's Diversity & Inclusion Festival of Dance. The event featured performers from around the world, including national champions. Acts included traditional dances from Scotland, Guinea, Ghana, Nigeria and India. The event saw over 250 attendees, and over 13k impressions across social media.

We also supported the City Pride Reception at The Bishopsgate Institute, which saw engagement from over 140 people.

We partnered with City Belonging Project to support their Matzah Rumble celebration.

We've provided a range of networking opportunities for local workers and businesses, including our annual AGM celebration, Wellbeing Lunches as part of our Refresh programme, City BIDs Routemaster Bus Tour, Providence Row's Anniversary Celebration and more.

EMPLOYABILITY & UPSKILLING

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Aldgate Community Fund supporting employability programmes
- Mayor's Fund for London
- Whitechapel Gallery's Duchamp & Sons

Our commitment to supporting employability and upskilling was demonstrated through supporting several schemes aimed at increasing people's chances to learn something new and find employment. The Aldgate Community Fund 2026 awarded projects supporting young people with CV skills, job seeking support, as well as learning about the music industry. The fund will also support homeless people to learn valuable skills from kitchen work to IT. The projects were awarded in March 2026, and will be delivered across the next financial year.

Once again, we have partnered with the Whitechapel Gallery to support their youth programme, Duchamp & Sons, where young

people work with artists and curators to help break down barriers to the creative industries. We also supported the Mayor's Fund for London, which supports young people with valuable skills, mentorship and creates opportunities for employment.

VOLUNTEERING & RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Volunteering brokerage
- Lord Mayor's Show participation

Over the past year we continued to facilitate connections for businesses with charities and local organisations. We also provided 40 volunteering roles to local workers as part of the Aldgate in Winter Festival.

We joined the other City BIDs in a community float, celebrating our local heroes in the Lady Mayor's Show.

ONE VOICE FOR ALDGATE

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Centre for Cities Report
- Opportunity London

We continued to act as one voice for Aldgate by communicating with local and central government, providing a collective power for our businesses and communities. We supported London-wide campaigns working with the other BIDs to provide a louder voice and greater value.





BUDGET: £240,137

Shaping a Safer Aldgate

OUR AMBITION: To enhance safety and resilience in the area and the people within through partnership and collaboration; building programmes to support those in need and enhance the sense of wellbeing in the district.

HOMELESSNESS SUPPORT

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Providence Row
- The London Walk 2026

We renewed our support for Providence Row's Welcome Area & Resource Centre for a fifth year, to continue their impactful work in meeting immediate needs and providing focused care for the most vulnerable in society. The funding supports over 1,000 people experiencing homelessness across the year.

We partnered with the other City BIDs to support The London Walk, which annually sees around 250 participants take part in the night-time activity to raise money and awareness for 18 homeless charities.

COMMUNITY SAFETY & NIGHTTIME ECONOMY

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Training – Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG)
- Taxi Marshalling
- Phone snatching deterrents and bike safety
- Installation of theft prevention bag hooks in licensed premises
- Bridge Watch

Over the last year we have focused on supporting the safety of women and girls in our area by providing training, supporting Our Safer City's safe havens scheme and promoting the Ask for Angela training.

We partnered with Our Safer City and Eastern City BID to deliver a taxi marshalling scheme for Liverpool Street Station. This popular scheme brings marshals to help manage the taxi queue and provide support for vulnerable people finding a way home.

We also ran popular pop-ups for people to get their phones and bikes marked to help with recovery of stolen items.

We are working with our local hospitality businesses to provide bag hooks for businesses with the highest cases of bag theft.

We continue to provide high-quality training on community safety, including the Bridge Watch scheme aimed at suicide prevention.

BUSINESS CRIME REDUCTION

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Training on retail crime prevention and cyber-crime
- Promoted free business training
- Aldgate BID Alerts Platform
- Ambassadors monitored crime hotspots

We continued to run our Aldgate BID Alerts Platform, which supports local workers and businesses with real-time communications on major incidents across the area, as well as notification of planned activities that may affect you or your business. Over the last year we have sent out alerts to key business users registered on the platform and continue to grow this.

We are working with our local businesses to provide high-quality training to businesses including anti-slavery and cyber-crime.





BUDGET: £236,946

Welcoming People In

OUR AMBITION: To spotlight Aldgate as a strong, dynamic, and entrepreneurial area, attracting visitors, residents and businesses, continuing to grow as a hotbed for new emerging talent and opportunity.

ANNUAL EVENTS CALENDAR

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Aldgate in Winter Festival
- Aldgate Sounds
- Aldgate Egg Hunt

We successfully delivered a ninth edition of the annual Aldgate in Winter Festival, with more than 2,900 attendees and 47 local businesses engaged across the festival. We had 40 volunteers from local businesses, 6 local schools taking part, 339 lanterns made for the lantern parade. Positive feedback included and enjoyment rating of 9.1/10, and an recommendation rating of 9/10.

Aldgate Sounds brought live performances on Tuesday lunchtimes and Thursdays after-work across August, which once again proved highly popular.

Locations included Aldgate Square, Mitre Square, Mallon Gardens, Devonshire Square, and Braham St Park. Aldgate Sounds received positive feedback showing 4.8/5 recommendation and 4.8/5 for enjoyment.

The scavenger hunt style Aldgate Egg Hunt returned for the fourth year, with 10 businesses taking part providing hand-drawn clue artworks. Over 260 participants collected chocolate eggs across the 2-week trail. Ally the Aldgate bunny distributed 150 pouches of branded sweets, and 339 chocolate eggs were donated to Food for Aldgate Foodbank.

We saw a 195% increase in leaflet engagement and a 460% increase in photo engagement compared to the previous year.

PUTTING ALDGATE ON THE MAP

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Promotion of area via digital channels
- Petticoat Lane Digital channels and website
- Toast the City

From 1st April 2025 – 31st January 2026 we had 6,700 users visit the Aldgate Connect website, averaging 774 users per month with events generating the highest engagement. The newsletter has over 1,120 subscribers with walking tours and wellness events highlighting popular content.

In the same period, we had more than 13,860 users visit the Petticoat Lane website, averaging 1,540 users per month, with most visits to the 'Vendors Archive', amounting to over 4,900 views. We also commissioned new photography of over 160 Petticoat Lane businesses.

The Petticoat Lane Conker Challenge resulted in over 21k views, and 100 shares across our social channels.

We partnered with City AM and the other City BIDs on Toast the City to promote Aldgate's hospitality and leisure businesses, as well as continued promotion on City AM. Aldgate saw 26 businesses shortlisted across 18 categories. We received 28,000 public votes with two Aldgate Winners: Jeff Wayne's The War of the Worlds: The Immersive Experience, voted Best Family Experience and Galvin La Chapelle, voted Best Restaurant.

WALKS, TALKS & TRAILS

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Walking Tours
- Walking Trails

We engaged 50 people across 3 tours and trails – helping people discover our amazing neighbourhood.

LONDON WIDE PARTNERSHIPS

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Conferences including MIPIM, NLA, memberships

We continue to represent Aldgate at a local, national and international stage – including NLA Awards and MIPIM.





2026/27 DELIVERY PLAN



BUDGET: £404,010

Making the District More Appealing

Working with our local authority partners and other stakeholders, we will work to implement our Aldgate Connect Public Realm Vision & Strategy and deliver strategic placemaking interventions, explore public infrastructure improvements, and deliver community projects across the district.

OUR OBJECTIVES & ACTIONS FOR 2026/27 ARE:

Ground Floor Use Study Working in collaboration with City BIDs and the City of London Corporation, we will implement the study's recommendations.

Character Area 1: Vine Street We will develop a lighting scheme and identify longer term public realm enhancements for America Square.

Character Area 2: Gateways to Aldgate Following Vine Street trial, we will explore creative lighting and public art projects across the railway arches leading into Fenchurch Street Station. Deliver plans for Northumberland Alley

Character Area 3: Aldgate/Whitechapel High Street Partnering with LBTH and other key stakeholders towards driving forward aspirations for a child-friendly Gunthorpe Street, we will mitigate safety issues and enhance the public realm. Working with TfL and other key private sector partners, we will deliver enhancements to Braham Street Park.

Character Area 4: Petticoat Lane We will work with landowners to create a pocket park on New Goulston Street to incorporate seating, greening and placemaking enhancements to

benefit business and market visitors. Design and launch as part of London Festival of Architecture 2026. We will work collaboratively with LBTH officers to explore ways of adding in enhancements to the market including wayfinding, public art, seating and greening.

Public Spaces Placemaking Activating public spaces, we aim to encourage dwell time and create moments of excitement, including the delivery of the London Festival of Architecture. We will explore future exhibitions, activations and vacant unit activation where possible for funding.

Sustainability and Climate Action We will connect partners and businesses supporting behavioural change. We will raise awareness of sustainability including taking part in global moments including Earth Month. We will provide communication and involvement in Clean City Awards Scheme, Heart of the City and City Giving Day.

ESG Biodiversity: Tree Planting Further locations suitable for tree planting will be continued in partnership with LBTH.

Street Cleansing Support We will continue to run our Aldgate Ambassador service to report all environmental and cleansing issues, whilst also working with the local authorities on additional hotspot cleansing.



BUDGET: £269,224

Creating a Connected Community

Aldgate is known for its inclusive community and being a place that welcomes everyone. Our connected community theme looks at the betterment of the local community, supporting local people, businesses and everyone in between through an inclusive environment. The BID is committed to ensuring Aldgate's business and resident communities have opportunities for growth and our activities bring joy to those that live, work, and play here.

OUR OBJECTIVES & ACTIONS FOR 2026/27 ARE:

Networking Events A regular programme of networking events will be delivered, alongside the promotion of partner opportunities to boost local benefits. We will deliver an International Women's Day networking event in March 2027 – creating a high-profile moment.

Local Business Welcome and Destination Promotion We will create a Welcome Pack for new starters in the area to ensure that we are highlighting the full offer of local area.

Diversity and Inclusion Events and Support We will support and organise key events including the Bishopsgate Foundation's Pride Reception, and Devonshire Square's Diversity and Inclusion Festival. We will deliver programming, activations and communications to support key dates including Black History Month. We will support people with a disability and neurodiversity. We will signpost to the City Belonging Project and support through promotion on platforms.

Employability and Business Training Training for local employees will be provided through the Aldgate Training Hub, including certified Mental Health First Aid and refresher courses.

Partnership with Bridge Watch will help promote suicide-prevention training.

Annual Calendar of Wellbeing Events and Workshops The BID will deliver targeted wellbeing events and workshops including Aldgate Gardening Club and Refresh to promote wellbeing and mental resilience. We will create a men's mental health workshop (November to coincide with November).

Work Experience, Employability and Opportunities for Young People We will deliver high-quality work experience and employability programmes for young people including a partnership with Mayor's Fund for London, the Aldgate Community Fund, the Whitechapel Young Curators programme (Duchamp & Sons), Inspiration for All, and Lord Mayor's Appeal, including We Can Be and City Giving Day. We will support careers fairs and employability schemes. We will broker work experience programmes with key partners such as David Game College Group.

Volunteering Opportunities and Brokerage Volunteering programmes and brokerage will continue, including opportunities linked to the events programme and participation in national volunteering days.



BUDGET: £337,266

Shaping a Safer Aldgate

Through strong partnerships with City of London, London Metropolitan and British Transport Police forces, Transport for London, and the local authorities, Aldgate Connect BID is committed to shaping a safer area for all. This theme supports community safety and business resilience across Aldgate and its neighbouring areas.

OUR OBJECTIVES & ACTIONS FOR 2026/27 ARE:

Ambassador Programme Our Aldgate Ambassador service will continue to monitor and report on potential crime hotspots, which we will report to the police forces. We will look to gather more intelligence from our businesses on the local crime levels and work with the police forces to increase patrols where possible and reduce ASB in the area.

Aldgate BID Alerts Platform The Aldgate BID Alerts Platform will remain in operation, keeping businesses informed of key neighbourhood disruptions.

Homelessness Support We will support organisations that provide additional provisions for those experiencing homelessness, including supporting immediate essential needs and driving forward a sustainable mechanism for rehabilitation. We will host an event to share knowledge and educate businesses on how they can support those experiencing homelessness.

Safety Training for the Night-time Economy

A wide range of Safer Business training and safety initiatives will be delivered, including night-time schemes such as Ask for Angela, phone-snatching deterrents, and training focused on tackling Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG). Phone-marking events will be offered in partnership with City of London Police.

Bike and Pedestrian Safety We will work with City of London Police to deliver initiatives including cycle safety pop-up events. We will promote safe walking routes and deliver more bike storage options in the district.

Volunteering Opportunities and Brokerage

Volunteering programmes and brokerage will continue, including opportunities linked to the events programme and participation in national volunteering days.



BUDGET: £321,068

Welcoming People In

We aim to promote Aldgate as a unique world class destination in London, ensuring effective marketing and promotion of the area's eclectic offering. Through extensive digital and physical marketing and communications, we will continue to promote Aldgate as a leading place to live, work, and visit.

OUR OBJECTIVES & ACTIONS FOR 2026/27 ARE:

Annual Calendar of Events We will deliver an extensive calendar of events, activations, and cultural celebrations including an expanded summer programme and Aldgate Egg Hunt. We will host the 10th Anniversary of Aldgate in Winter Festival, as well as an expanded corporate-focused festive programme.

Digital Channels Management Digital channels will be used to communicate the local offer and boost engagement, supported by refreshed social media activity. The updated website will be made more user-friendly, with clearer visibility for Community and Business pages.

Petticoat Lane Digital and Events Management Management of the Petticoat Lane website and social media will continue to promote the market, its businesses and local activity. Opportunities to work with influencers and increase paid

advertising will be explored to broaden awareness. Events in Petticoat Lane will once again be programmed.

Locking in Local Spend We will continue developing our loyalty programmes, including the City Gift Card and City BIDs' App, supporting Aldgate's retail, hospitality, and leisure businesses. We will continue our Aldgate Ambassador service, ensuring visitors to the area are welcomed and informed of the local offering. We will explore more local, national, and international promotional opportunities.

Communication Planning and Campaigns We will manage regular communications as well as promotion of local businesses, and organise seasonal campaigns to promote the local area, businesses and local offering.

Forecasted position*

2025/26

	TOTAL (£)
BID Levy Income	1,359,511
Voluntary Income Grants and Sponsorship	28,333
Closing 2024-25 Reserves	246,472
TOTAL INCOME	1,634,316
Appealing District	379,676
Welcoming People in	236,946
Safer Aldgate	240,137
Connected Community	198,315
Staffing and Overheads**	202,188
Contingency	50,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	1,307,262
2025-26 Closing Reserves	327,054

* Based on full year forecasts made in March 2026

** Covered firstly by voluntary income

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 70% and 30% respectively – spend is allocated to each borough accordingly

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

Budget

2026/27

	TOTAL (£)
BID Levy Income (assuming 95% Collection)	1,424,604
Voluntary Income Grants and Sponsorship	28,000
Closing 2025-26 reserves	327,054
TOTAL INCOME	1,779,658
Appealing District	404,010
Welcoming People in	321,068
Safer Aldgate	337,266
Connected Community	269,224
Staffing and Overheads**	225,100
Contingency	72,630
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	1,629,298
2026-27 Closing Reserves	150,360



About the BID

REPORTING & MEASURING

For all projects, we will set out and measure individual targets and outcomes, reporting back quarterly to the BID Board and Steering Groups. This will be brought together in an Annual Report published at the Annual General Meeting in September the following year.

MEET THE BID TEAM

Claire Dumontier-Marriage

BID Director
claire@aldgateconnect.london

Izabella Kasinska

Head of Marketing & Events
Izabella@aldgateconnect.london

Maxine Di Duca

Head of Operations
maxine@aldgateconnect.london

Jessica Snooks

Marketing & Events Manager
Jessica@aldgateconnect.london

Ella Bothamley

Placemaking Manager
Ella@aldgateconnect.london

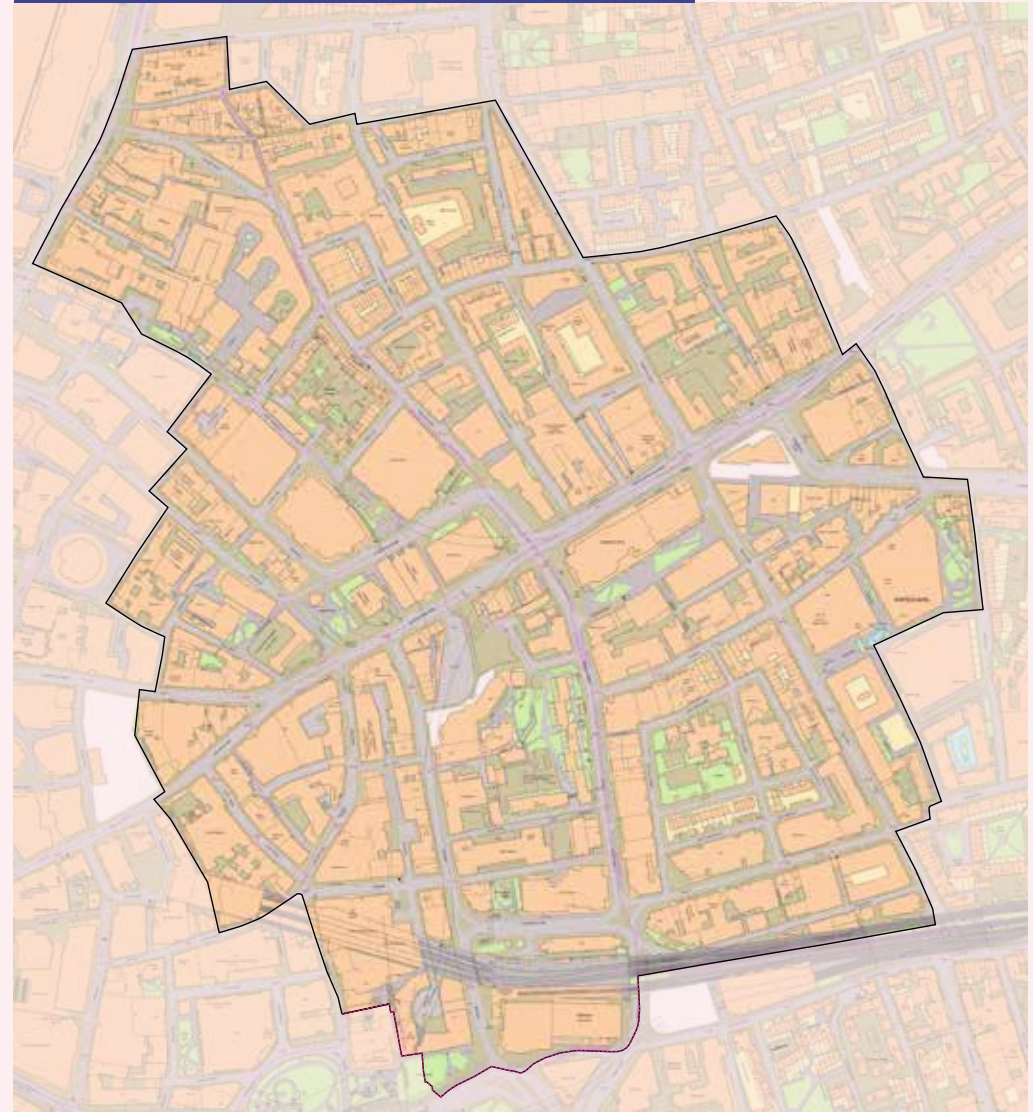
Lucy Booth

BID Coordinator
Lucy@aldgateconnect.london

Ellie Mckinlay

Executive Assistant
ellie.mckinlay@aldgateconnect.london

The BID Boundary



ALDGATE CONNECT

Welcome everyone

aldgateconnect.london

 [@aldgateconnect](https://www.instagram.com/aldgateconnect)

info@aldgateconnect.london