

ALDGATE CONNECT

ANNUAL REVIEW 2025/2026

Supporting Aldgate's businesses, locals, workers and everyone in between.

Welcome

On behalf of Aldgate Connect Business Improvement District (BID), I am delighted to present our Annual Review for 2025/26.

After a successful BID Re-Ballot in February 2025, we have hit the ground running delivering an ambitious programme of projects and initiatives across the first year of our second five-year term.

We have begun implementing our Aldgate Connect Business Plan 2025-2030, delivering against our strategic priorities of Making the District More Appealing, Creating a Connected Community, Shaping a Safer Aldgate, and Welcoming People In.

Highlights include the Stories of Aldgate Exhibition marking the first step to improvements to Vine Street, our inaugural three-week wellbeing programme Refresh, launching our collaborative City Safe Bus project, and delivering an enhanced programme of public events, including our community festival Aldgate in Winter.

This document details how our funds have been allocated across March 2025 – April 2026 and the positive impact the BID continues to have across Aldgate.

All of this is only made possible by the continued support of our business community. So on behalf of the Aldgate Connect BID Board and Team, I want to say thank you and encourage you to continue to engage with and explore what the BID has to offer.



With best wishes,

Liam Hayes
Chair of the BID Board

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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 all.

Shaping a Safer Aldgate

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

Welcoming People In

To spotlight Aldgate as a strong and dynamic destination, attracting visitors, residents and businesses, and ensuring that it continues to grow as a hotbed for new opportunity.

Making the District More Appealing

Total spend: £292,388

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

Improvement of the Vine Street Character Area

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 displaying contributions from the Migration Museum, London Metropolitan University, Blue Orchid Hospitality, and Urbanest.

Working alongside three students doing research from London Metropolitan University, the activation also gathered insights and feedback from the public about the challenges in Vine Street relating to noise, light and other activity. These insights will pave the way for future improvements, working collaboratively with the City of London on future public realm upgrades to Vine Street and America Square. In parallel, designs have been developed for upgrades to the lighting under the Vine Street railway bridge, with installation planned in time for Winter 2026.

Enhancement of Petticoat Lane

We collaborated with The Colombian Coffee Company to look to transform an area of under-utilised public realm in Petticoat Lane. We ran a competition as part of the NLA's London Festival of Architecture 2026 to commission designs to create a pocket park in Goulston Street, which will be installed in Summer 2026.

We joined London Festival of Architecture (powered by NLA) to launch a new design competition to reimagine an underused space within Petticoat Lane. Over 33 proposals from leading firms were received. In partnership with The Colombian Coffee Company, the winning design "Macchiato" has transformed the space into a pocket park that celebrates the local market and creates a welcoming, flexible space. The pocket park was installed in June 2026 and remain in situ.

Ground Floor Use

The Ground Floor Use Study has been commissioned with publication due in Autumn 2026. This is a collaboration between the City BIDs and the City of London Corporation's Destination City Hub, to understand how to shape and enhance the ground level experience in the City. It engaged a cross-section of stakeholders, including property owners, agents, cultural institutions, among others.

ENHANCE & ENRICH PUBLIC SPACE

Sport and Sculpture Installations

Aldgate opened its streets to host several engaging public installations.

Sport returned to Aldgate, delivered in partnership with Central London Alliance's London Sports Festival, we brought two new installations including Padel Table Tennis and Bucketball to the area. Over 5,395 people took part in the activations.

In April 2025, we joined Central London BIDs to take part in The Big Egg Hunt organised by The Elephant Family. It was part of a wider trail with over 100 eggs across London that over 40,000 people came to see. We also supported the 14th edition of Sculpture in the City by sponsoring 'The Kissing Gate' by Maya Rose Edwards.

Petticoat Lane Activations

We also supported Petticoat Lane with a range of brand-awareness activities from the Conker Challenge to Young Trader's Market competition with Tower Hamlets Council, alongside a collaboration fashion-themed project with London Metropolitan University's students.

Footfall Data

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

Aldgate BID 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.

Cleansing Audit

We also commissioned a report from Keep Britain Tidy to identify what additional cleansing is needed for the area. The findings highlight opportunities to work with our partners on targeted areas.

CHAMPION CLIMATE ACTION TOGETHER

Active Travel

We continued our partnership with Love to Ride to promote active travel and encourage people to cycle. Since launch, we've seen 5,446 rides by 65 riders from 21 workplaces, which is equivalent to 5,324 kg CO_2 saved.

Clean City Awards Scheme

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.





5,300+
participants in pop-up sporting activations

10
local stories showcased in Stories of Aldgate Exhibition

15,400+
environmental and cleansing issues reported by Ambassadors

5,400+
rides by 65 cycle riders tracked





Creating a Connected Community

Total spend: £189,579

Our ambition: To bring joy to the people of Aldgate; promoting inclusive and sustainable prosperity, supporting equality of opportunities for all.

HEALTH & WELLBEING

Mental Health First Aid

We delivered several wellbeing programmes throughout the year including Mental Health First Aid accredited training, which resulted in a further 26 people certified.

Aldgate Gardening Club

Our Aldgate Gardening Club continued to be highly popular, drawing over 130 attendees from across the area through our regular craft and gardening lunchtime workshops.

Refresh

A highlight of the year was Refresh, our three-week programme of 19 wellbeing activities, which included 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.

Choir Performances

We were also pleased to join Music in Offices to support the City of Women Choir's performance in Devonshire Square to celebrate International Women's Day 2026. 64 individuals took part across the choir rehearsals and performances.

CONNECTING OUR THRIVING COMMUNITIES

Diversity & Inclusion Programme

We supported Devonshire Square's Diversity and Inclusion Festival of Dance, which 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 13,000 impressions across social media.

We also supported the City Pride Reception at the Bishopsgate Institute, which saw engagement from over 140 local workers. We also supported the City Belonging Project to support their Matzah Rumble celebration.

Ambassador's Business Support

The Aldgate Ambassadors continued to conduct vital ground-floor business visits, gathering enquiries for the BID Team, as well as distributing information, leaflets, and letters.

Networking Opportunities

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. Over five special events have been programmed to support networking in Aldgate.

EMPLOYABILITY & UPSKILLING

Aldgate Community Fund

Our commitment to supporting employability and upskilling was demonstrated through supporting several schemes aimed at increasing people's chances to build skills and find employment.

The Aldgate Community Fund 2026 awarded projects supporting young people with CV skills, job seeking support at David Game College, as well as learning about the music industry at Beaubeaus. The fund will also support the homelessness charity, Providence Row, for their clients to learn valuable skills from kitchen work to IT. Alongside this, we also supported students via Aldgate Solar Power. The projects were awarded in March 2026 and will be delivered across the next financial year. We expect these projects to support around 500 people in the area.

Whitechapel Gallery's Duchamp & Sons

Once again, we have supported Whitechapel Gallery's youth programme, Duchamp & Sons, which helps break down barriers to the creative industries. The total attendance of members across sessions from September 2025 – March 2026 was 236.

Mayor's Fund for London

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

Volunteering Brokerage

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.

Lady Mayor's Show participation

We joined the other City BIDs in a joint creative float, celebrating our local heroes from the Stories of Aldgate project in the Lady Mayor's Show.

ONE VOICE FOR ALDGATE

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.





4
projects chosen for the Aldgate Community Fund 2026

26
new **Mental Health First Aiders** trained

13,000+
social media impressions for DSQ's Diversity & Inclusion Festival

230+
participants in Refresh wellbeing programme





Shaping a Safer Aldgate

Total spend: £242,442

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 safety in the district.

HOMELESSNESS SUPPORT

Providence Row

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.

The London Walk 2026

We partnered with Cheapside Business Alliance and London Heritage Quarter to support The London Walk, which annually sees around 250 participants take part in the nighttime activity to raise money and awareness for 18 homeless charities.

COMMUNITY SAFETY & NIGHTTIME ECONOMY

Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG) Prevention Support

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 scheme.

Taxi Marshalling and City Safe Bus at Liverpool Street

We partnered with Our Safer City and Eastern City BID to continue to deliver the Taxi Marshals 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. Over the 2025-26 period the marshals supported 19,607 journeys, including 5,757 lone female travellers, across 597 marshaled hours.

We also partnered with Our Safer City and Eastern City BID on a second safety project for Liverpool Street Station, launching the City Safe Bus in November 2025. The bus is a space for vulnerable people on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights, and since launching has reported 1,277 interactions.

Phone and Bike Theft Deterrents

We also ran seven popular pop-ups in partnership with the City of London Police for people to get their mobile phones and bikes marked to help with recovery of any stolen items. Over the last year, we marked 437 phones, and engaged over 200 cyclists.

Installation of Theft Prevention Bag Hooks

We are working with our local hospitality businesses to target bag theft hotspots. In partnership with the City of London Police, we aim to distribute 100+ bag hooks over the next financial year, across the businesses with the highest cases of bag theft.

Hestia's 'Art is Freedom' Exhibition

We brought Hestia's 'Art is Freedom' Exhibition to Aldgate Square, to support raising awareness of Modern-Day Slavery, alongside a complementary introduction training for local businesses.

BUSINESS CRIME REDUCTION

Aldgate BID Alerts Platform

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.

Free Business Crime Prevention Training

We continued to work with key partners to provide high-quality training to local businesses focusing on supporting their resilience. Training has included cyber-crime awareness, Bridge Watch's suicide prevention, and more.

Ambassador's Hotspot Monitoring

The Aldgate Ambassadors continued to be vital in intelligence gathering around the area, passing on information to the BID Team and partners regarding potential safety hotspots and supporting with StreetLink reporting. Our Ambassadors have reported 24,835 incidents in this financial year.





1,000+
people experiencing homelessness **supported through Providence Row**

19,600+
journeys supported **by Taxi Marshals**

1,200+
interactions with the **City Safe Bus**

437
phones marked with the City of London Police





Welcoming People In

Total spend: £248,429

Our ambition: To spotlight Aldgate as a strong and dynamic destination, attracting visitors, residents and businesses, and ensuring that it continues to grow as a hotbed for new opportunity.

ANNUAL EVENTS CALENDAR

Aldgate in Winter Festival

We successfully delivered the ninth edition of the annual Aldgate in Winter Festival, with more than 2,900 attendees and 47 local businesses engaged across the festival.

We also saw 40 volunteers from local businesses supporting the festival, with 6 local primary schools taking part in the workshops and parade, and a total of 339 lanterns made for the event. Positive feedback included an enjoyment rating of 9.1/10, and a recommendation rating of 9/10.

Aldgate Sounds

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 rating and 4.8/5 for enjoyment.

Aldgate Egg Hunt

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 supporting social media growth, 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

Promotion of Aldgate via Digital Channels

From 1st April 2025 – 31st March 2026 we had 7,770 users visit the aldgateconnect.london website, averaging 648 users per month with events generating the highest engagement. The newsletter has over 1,140 subscribers with walking tours and wellness events highlighting popular content.

Petticoat Lane Digital Channels

In the same period, we had more than 15,594 users visit the petticoatlane.london website, averaging 1,300 users per month, with most visits to the 'Vendors Archive', amounting to over 5,640 views.

We also commissioned new photography of over 160 Petticoat Lane businesses, and the Petticoat Lane Conker Challenge resulted in over 21,000 views, and 100 shares across our social channels.

Toast the City

We partnered with City AM and the other City BIDs on Toast the City to promote Aldgate's hospitality and leisure sector, where we saw 26 Aldgate businesses shortlisted across the 18 categories. We received 28,000 public votes resulting in 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

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

We also held two themed talks as part of our Refresh Campaign, these surrounded the themes of improving mental resilience and supporting parents in the workplace.

LONDON WIDE PARTNERSHIPS

We continued to represent Aldgate at a local, national and international level, as well as maintaining our vital partnerships with the likes of Business London, Opportunity London and more.

We also joined the City of London and City BIDs in activating The London Stand at MIPIM Conference in March 2026.





2,900+
attendees for the annual **Aldgate in Winter Festival**

330+
chocolate eggs donated to **Food for Aldgate Foodbank**

28,000+
public votes for **Toast the City**

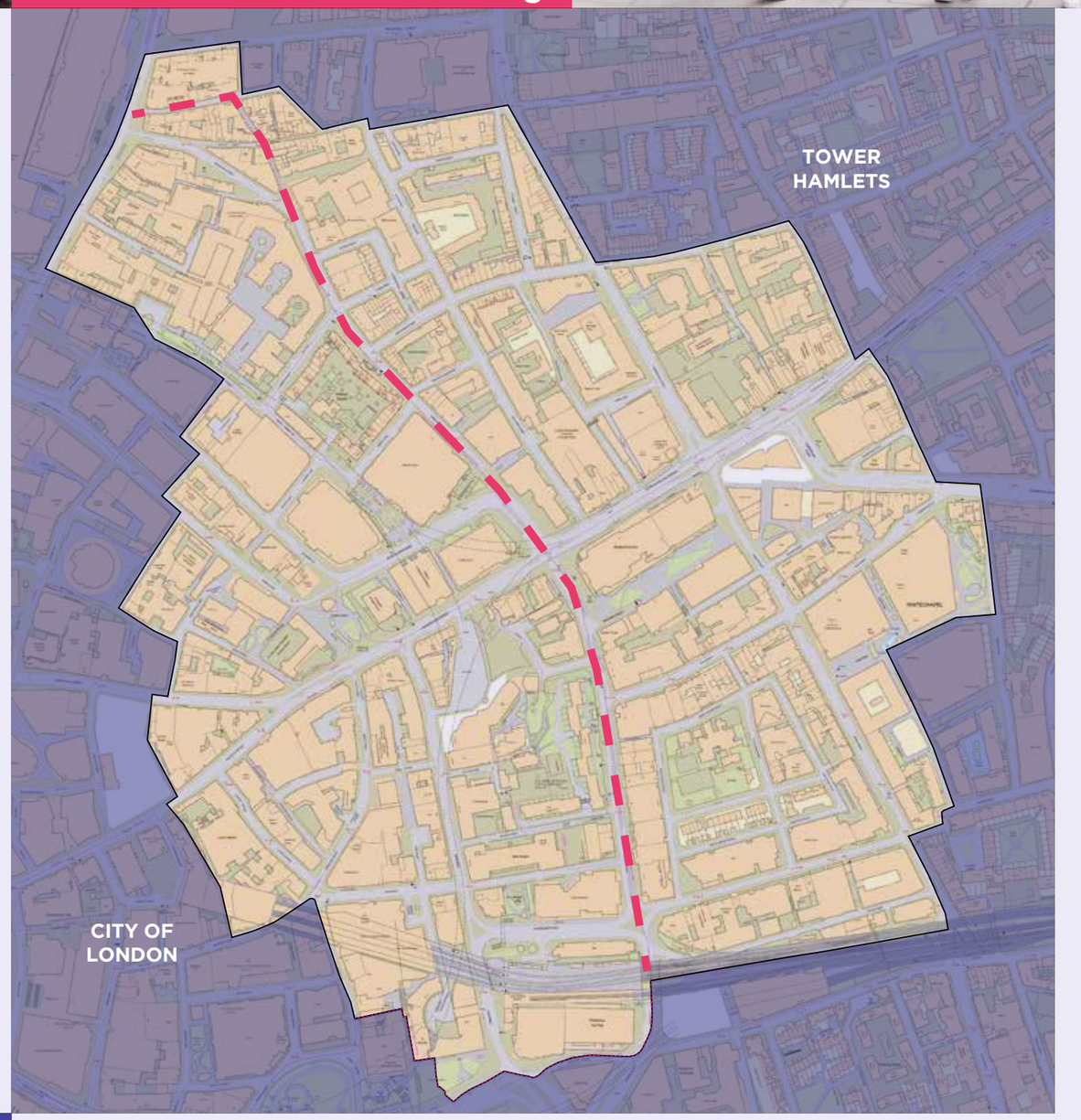
160
new Petticoat Lane businesses showcased on website







The BID Boundary





Governance and the BID Board

The BID is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee, led by a Board of Directors made up of representatives from across the sectors within the BID area. The BID's activities are driven by a set of Steering Groups leading each Key Strategic Theme of the BID. The Executive Team manages the day-to-day operations and the projects that deliver the BID's ambitions.

This document covers the first year of the BID's second 5-year term, following a successful business vote outcome in February 2025. The second term will run from 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2030.

Liam Hayes *Chair of the Board*	FT Squared
Karen Cook *Vice-Chair*	Spice Design
Ian Lewis *Vice-Chair*	Lockton
Lisa Recker	AECOM
Gina Van Dort	Arcadis
Peadar McFadden	Canopy by Hilton
Ben Ridgwell	CDL
Anne Whitehead	David Game College Group
Annie Sutton	Howden Group
Mark Kelly	PLP Architecture
Abhay Srivastava	Weightmans
Ruth Duston OBE, OC	Primera Corporation



Income and Expenditure

1st April 2025 – 31st March 2026

INCOME	TOTAL (£)
Levy Income	£1,475,416
Other income	£28,333
Closing 2024-25 Reserves	246,472
TOTAL	**£1,750,221**

EXPENDITURE	
Appealing District	£292,388
Welcoming People In	£248,429
Safer Aldgate	£242,442
Connected Community	£189,579
Staffing & Overheads*	£200,962
TOTAL	**£1,173,800**

Surplus carried forward to 2026-27	£576,421



ALDGATE CONNECT

Welcome everyone

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