

Dear Colleagues

As we begin planning for Chichester BID's fourth term, we are pleased to share the accompanying proposal document with you. As a business liable to pay the BID levy for the new term, your views are important, and we would welcome your feedback.

The document sets out the proposed framework for a fourth five-year term, explains why we believe a fourth term is needed, and will inform the Business Plan to be published in September, which will underpin our campaign ahead of the ballot in November 2026.

To help ensure the BID remains financially sustainable and able to continue delivering services for businesses, three changes are proposed for Term 4. There are three key areas we would like to highlight:

1. Levy Rate Increase: 1.25% to 1.7%

This change reflects a number of factors, including:

- An overall reduction in rateable value following the 2026 business rates revaluation
- Rising inflation and increased operating costs.
- The need to maintain the BID's financial viability and service delivery
- The proposed rate remains in line with similar BIDs across the country.

Importantly, because of changes to rateable values in the 2026 Non-Domestic Rating List, more than one-third of businesses are expected to pay less BID levy than they do at present, while most other businesses will see only a modest increase.

2. Vacant Listed Buildings

Under the proposal, owners of vacant listed buildings would no longer be exempt from the levy. They would become liable after three months of vacancy, in line with other vacant properties.

This approach is already used in a number of historic cities and would create a fairer and more consistent system while helping provide greater stability in levy income.

3. Ratings List Clarification

The 2026 Ratings List would be fixed for the duration of the term, providing greater certainty for levy payers.

Updates would still be made where necessary, such as following rating appeals, but any changes would apply going forward only and would not result in backdated refunds.

Together, these changes are designed to protect the BID's financial stability while ensuring fairness and transparency for levy payers.

Thank you for taking the time to review the document and for your continued support. We look forward to hearing your views. Please give us a call (01243 773263), send us an email (office@chichesterbid.co.uk), or arrange a meeting to share your views by Monday 17 August.

If you are not the designated BID Levy voter for your organisation, please let us know who is so that we can update our records.

If you occupy a listed building, please ensure the owner receives a copy of this letter explaining the proposed changes relating to listed buildings.

Yours

The Chichester BID Team