



Dear Colleague,

Nominations to the Discover Lanark BID Board

As you may be aware, the recent ballot for the Discover Lanark BID was successful, with a majority of businesses democratically choosing to move forwards. As such, I am writing to provide you with an update on the next steps on this exciting journey for Lanark.

The number of votes cast was 210 with 127 voting in favour of the BID. The turnout was 55.26%. The aggregate total of the rateable value voted was £6,8 million, with £5,1 million in favour of the BID. Therefore, the vote was successful on all counts required by law and the BID Company will become operational on 1st June 2019.

All businesses located within the BID area will now be required to pay the small levy on the rateable value of their business premises as detailed in the BID Business Plan. South Lanarkshire Council will issue levy invoices on behalf of the BID company shortly, along with payment details.

It is important to note this levy is not the same as the taxes we pay. An Improvement District is about local businesses pooling and sharing their resources to make important improvements to the local economy that will add value, and ultimately benefit the businesses and local community of Lanark. As such, the levy goes towards projects that go above and beyond what is provided by local and national government.

We are acutely aware that the proposal to establish a BID was not popular with everyone, and that a number of people have concerns. However, I passionately believe that if we unite together behind a common vision for Lanark, we can make a real and meaningful impact to our town. Over the coming weeks and months, we are committed to reaching out and listening to anyone that has concerns and will do what we can to reassure and address them - our door is always open.

Nominations for Management Group

The outgoing Steering Group is now seeking nominations from those eligible businesses located within the BID area for the BID Board. As detailed in the Business Plan, there will be up to twelve places on the BID Board representing all business sectors.

On behalf of the BID Steering Group, I would like to invite business representatives to nominate themselves for a place on the new BID Board. If you are the owner of a business or a manager of a national business located within the BID area, and you have a passion for Lanark and would like to participate in the process of ensuring that the town continues to thrive and grow over the coming years, then please take the time to complete the attached form and return it to me no later than Friday 12th April 2019.

A seat on the BID Board will by no means be an honorary position; it will involve active participation and involvement in all aspects of delivering the BID Business Plan. It will require attendance at meetings and a willingness to work closely with the BID Management team who will be delivering the projects and services on behalf of the BID.

If more nominations are received for the allocated number of places of 12 then a meeting will be held, where those wishing to be part of the BID Board can present their case to those in attendance (all will be invited) and a vote will then take place. If not enough nominations are forthcoming, then the Group will have the right to co-opt eligible persons onto the board.

I look forward to receiving your nomination and application to join the new BID Management Group / Board by Friday 12th April 2019, and I hope you will join us on the next stage of this exciting journey for Discover Lanark.

Yours on behalf of the BID Steering Group

Graeme McLeish
Chair of Discover Lanark Steering Group

