



# Annual Review 2023–24

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# A Message from our Chair

“York BID continues to prove its worth as an effective catalyst for positive change in our city centre, establishing new and ambitious ways to stimulate the local economy.”



**Michael Hjort** |  
Chair & City Restaurateur

2024 marks the 20-year anniversary of Business Improvement Districts in the UK; the organisations that have invested over £1 billion in local services and events to deliver better towns and cities across the country. Now entering its ninth year, York BID is no exception, continuing to prove its worth as an effective catalyst for positive change in York city centre and ambitiously finding ways to stimulate the local economy.

Despite the ongoing challenges posed by our country's turbulent economy, there are several indicators that York is performing well compared to other cities across the UK, giving good reason to be optimistic about the future. Earlier this year, York was voted the 'best place to visit in the UK' by luxury travel magazine 'Condé Nast Traveller', yet more evidence that consumers have confidence in our city's stock, as a great destination to spend leisure time and disposable income.

The election of a new Mayor for York & North Yorkshire brings with it the potential for significant investment and improved synergy across the region as a whole. As a BID, we're excited about the opportunity to work closely with the new combined authority and are eager to understand details of the Mayor's newly proposed high street fund, as well as the opportunities this may bring.

York is one of only 22 designated UNESCO city of media arts across the globe, and indeed the only city with this

status in the UK. This is an achievement that until recently was little known by the local population and underutilised as a tool for inward investment and talent retention. Over the last year, York BID has worked closely with Aesthetica, Viridian FX and other key businesses in the creative sector to spread awareness of the city's UNESCO status and broker discussions with partners around how to better use it to our advantage.

We regularly listen to our retail and hospitality businesses and channel our efforts into events and promotions during quieter times of year with lower footfall. February welcomed the return of the magnificent Colour & Light, which saw a vibrant display projected onto York Art Gallery. We also saw the return of York Restaurant Week (the most successful to date) and sponsorship of the York Ice Trail and Snooks Trail, delivered by Make It York. This wide range of events focus on being accessible, as well as attracting residents and visitors from across the Yorkshire region. Most importantly for businesses, they result in a return on investment through increased consumer spend.

We are thrilled by the regular positive feedback we receive from both business and the public around our projects and services, whether it be through in-person engagement or social media and are very grateful for it. This gives our board and delivery team the confidence to continue building upon the good work of the last 8 years and to be ambitious in our plans for the future. We believe that a strong vote of support from the business community during the BID's upcoming renewal ballot (March 2026) is essential for the success of our organisation and, indeed, the future prosperity of our city.

# A Health Check for York's High Street

“York's High Street offer continues to be strong compared to the rest of the UK. We must now embrace city developments to diversify our city centre economy.”



**Andrew Lawson** |  
York BID Executive Director

When talking about city performance, we often discuss metrics such as footfall and spend, because

many of York BID's members (approx. 70%) sit within the retail, leisure and hospitality sectors. We also have many professional service/office sector businesses that contribute to the city centre offering.

The appointment of developers for York Central has created a real buzz within the office sector; for the first time York has the opportunity to develop a brownfield site and create a central business district, hopefully with a diverse range of businesses that can offer jobs to both local people and graduates. I continue to stress the importance of connectivity between this new development and the 'old' city centre, to ensure those who live and work in York Central can easily use our High Street offering.

It is also right to highlight that we have a new Mayor for York and North Yorkshire, Winstons of York's very own David Skaith! Having known David for many years, I am sure his knowledge of York will be valuable in his new role and, as a BID, we hope to work with him closely.

My understanding is that business is not all rosy and that margins still remain tight. Supply chain costs remain high, and the recent National Living Wage hike has to be absorbed. It is difficult to continually pass these costs onto consumers. Loaning money is also difficult, with many lenders asking for interest of 15-17%; this does not encourage investment. Inflation falling will hopefully help, but many businesses I liaise with talk about 2024 being a year of consolidation.

Regarding high street performance, the total number of visitors recorded during the financial year 2023-24 was up by 8% when compared with the previous year (Figure 1).

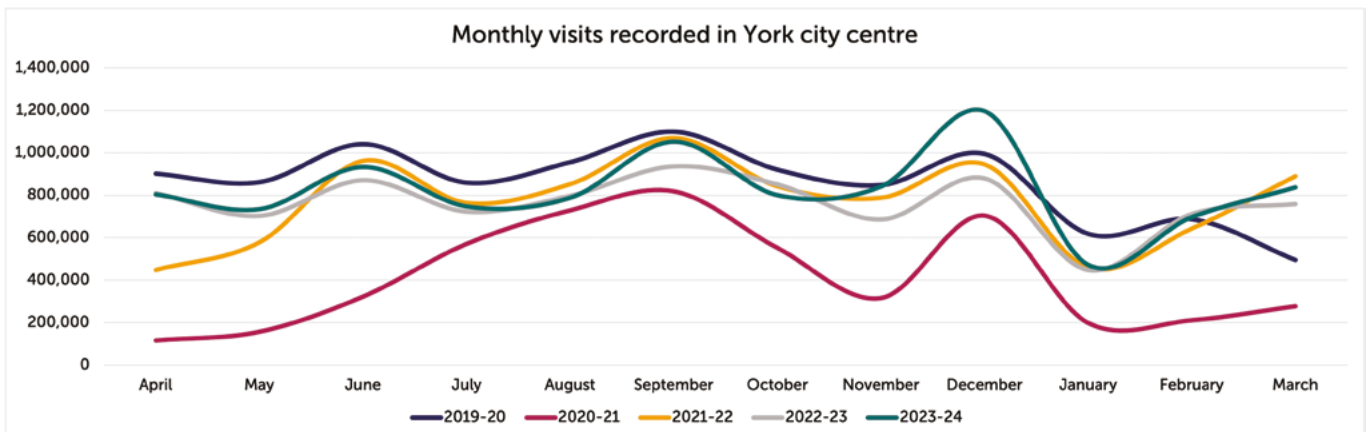


Figure 1. Monthly visitor numbers recorded in York city centre 2019-2024 (source: Springboard)

Spend data (Figure 2) also shows that the city did well; the total VISA card spend made in-store across city centre businesses during the financial year 2023-24 was up by 5.2%, when compared with the previous year.

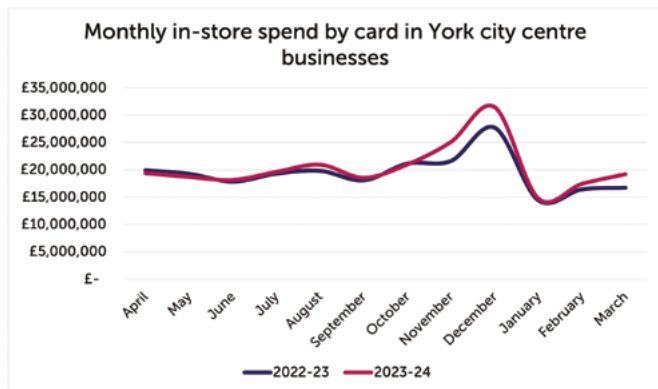


Figure 2. Monthly in-store spend via card transaction, recorded in York city centre businesses 2022-2024 (source: VISA). Amounts do not include spend made by overseas visitors.

The highest spend levels were recorded during December, which was 13.5% up when compared with the previous year during the same month. Some of the comparative increase may be due to inflation, however this should still be seen as strong performance.

York benefits hugely from international visitors, yet we also know their return has been slow after COVID-19. The good news is that in 2023-24, visitors from the USA were up by nearly 18% on the previous year and Chinese visitors were up by over 75%. Our hotels have certainly benefitted from this.

As we often like to highlight, York's biggest supporters when it comes to spend come from the local area. Visitors during 2023-24 from the York Local Authority area account for 32% of the total footfall during the year and 29.4% of the total spend. On average, visitors travelling from over 50km away account for 39.7% of the total footfall and 43% of the total spend.

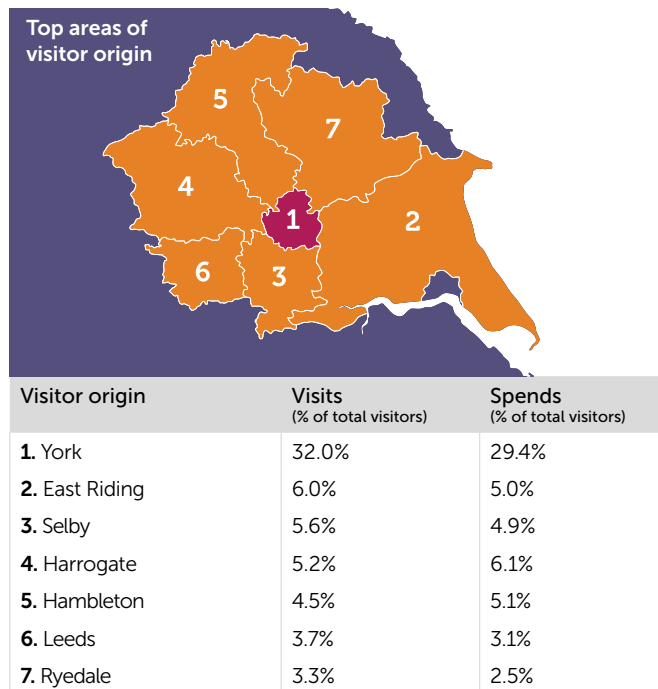


Figure 3. The top 7 locations by both visitor numbers and spend during 2023-24.

What does this mean for our high street? Compared to other towns and cities, our shop vacancy rates have been much lower than the UK national average for high streets for several years, which was last recorded at 14.0% (Figure 4).

In summary, we know that like many city centres, York has its challenges. We need public realm investment, greater capacity within planning departments and strong leadership to stimulate growth. Devolution and the new Mayor opens new funding opportunities, and a general election will hopefully inject some certainty and confidence into the economy. The past few years have shown businesses in York to be innovative and adaptive, so if trading conditions become more favourable in the coming months, I have no doubt the city will flourish.

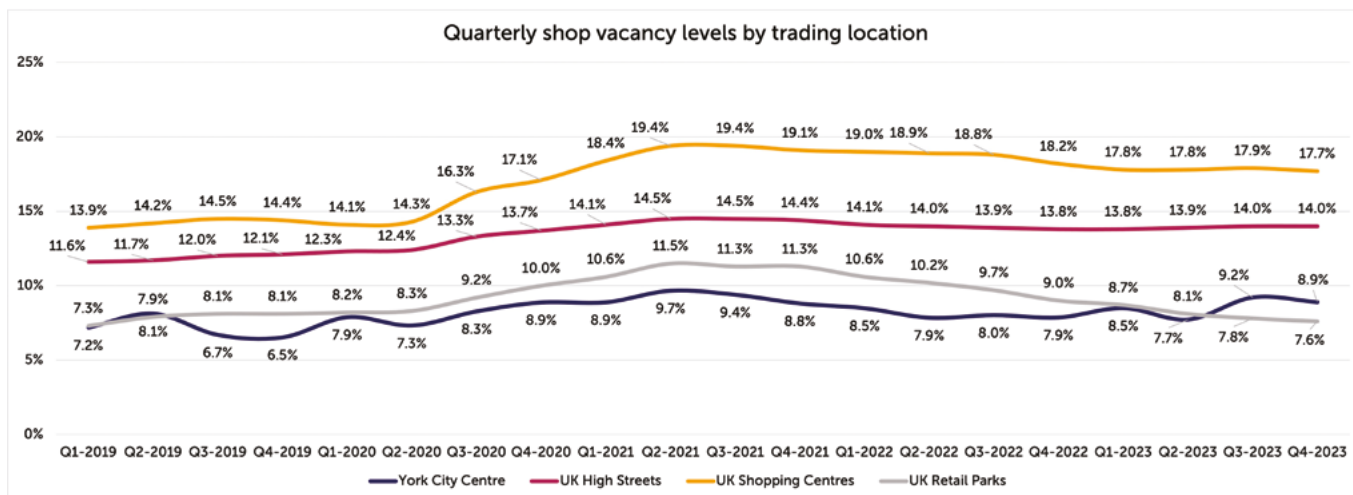


Figure 4. Comparison of quarterly, average shop vacancy levels 2019-2023 (source: York Open Data & Local Data Company)

# Year 8

## Key Statistics



**£558,000**

York Restaurant Week attracted over **30,000** visitors to food and drink businesses, boosting trade by nearly **£558,000**



**£186,000**

Over **£186,000** of additional income raised to fund BID projects



**£260,000**

Over **£260,000** worth of York Gift Cards sold / Nearly **360** businesses in York city centre accept the card



**35,000**

Colour & Light attracted over **35,000** viewers during February half-term



**24**

Vinyl wraps installed in **24** vacant high street shops



**340**

Skills School provided training to upskill over **340** employees, saving local businesses over **£45,000**



**233,000m<sup>2</sup>**

Street cleaners jet washed over **233,000m<sup>2</sup>** of city centre pathways



**400**

Provided around **400** additional outdoor seats for the public during the summer months



**£82,000**

Street Rangers recovered over **£82,000** of stolen stock for local businesses



**£66,000**

Sponsored local events and initiatives to the value of over **£66,000**



**50**

Coordinated over **50** volunteers to rejuvenate over **150** pieces of public street furniture



**95m<sup>2</sup>**

Delivered **95m<sup>2</sup>** of new public street art



# The Year in Review

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## Colour & Light

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During February 2024, York BID (with the support of partners and sponsors) relaunched 'Colour & Light', transforming York Art Gallery into a canvas for a vibrant light projection show. 3D projection mapping was used to animate the contours of the building as part of a unique cinematic experience, celebrating York's rich history in art. The event was free to attend, running every evening for 18 days across the two regional February half terms, attracting over 35,000 viewers, as well as national and local press coverage.

*"Colour & Light was brilliant. Not only was it such a mood booster throughout the winter season, but we also got so many customers walking into the theatre after having visited the projection, or stopping in our café to buy a hot drink before heading to the gallery to enjoy the show. It was mentioned so frequently and with such enthusiasm – it had a great impact on those who visited and on our business as a result."*

*Judi Amato, Duty Manager, York Theatre Royal*





## Ghosts in the Gardens

Ghosts in the Gardens took place from 23rd September to 12th November 2023, featuring 39 unique sculptures, located in a number of public gardens and green spaces around the city centre. The project encourages the public, especially families with young children during Halloween, to explore the city and its lesser-known areas and discover York's rich tapestry of historical figures. Since launching in 2021, Ghosts In The Gardens has grown considerably in popularity, last year attracting over 20,000 views to the event webpage.

*"Middletons Hotel is proud to have been involved with Ghosts in the Gardens for the past few years, bringing history to life in a unique way and celebrating York's reputation as the most haunted city in Europe. We've had great response from visitors, with some guests even booking with us just to see the Ghosts!"*

*Adam Wardale, General Manager, Middletons Hotel*



## Winter Lights

For eight years, York BID (in partnership with Make It York) has delivered the Winter Lights scheme for the city centre, which is a major draw for tourists and residents during the festive period. The display covers over 16km of city centre streets and consists of 160,000 LED lights, making for a truly magical atmosphere during the winter months. York BID also coordinates the memorable York Nutcracker Trail, showcasing 10 bespoke nutcracker statues, in collaboration with local schools, artists and charities, throughout the winter holidays.

## Public Art Installations

This year we commissioned three new dynamic and colourful murals to be installed on York Barbican, Foss Walk and the Coppergate Shopping Centre by local artists Emmeline North, Selkie Ray and Leah Pendleton. Combined with the existing murals delivered by York BID, we hope to develop a public art trail aimed at animating York's shopping streets, affirming the value of creative thinking in everyday life, and broadening people's perceptions of York. These murals celebrate the York Narrative, a collection of values defined by residents, workers, students, and visitors, that sum up York's unique identity and character.





## York Restaurant Week

York Restaurant Week is a much-loved part of the city's events calendar, aimed at boosting trade for food and drink businesses during quieter months of the year. Our most recent event, which took place from 11th to 17th March, attracted over 100 participating venues, making it one of the largest of its kind in the UK. During the event, the public downloaded over 17,300 vouchers, worth a monetary value of nearly £320,000 for local hospitality traders. Across the nine events delivered to date, nearly 100,000 vouchers have been downloaded, worth a monetary value of just under £1.5million. York BID will continue to deliver Restaurant Week twice annually, every March and October.

*"York Restaurant Week is a great opportunity for residents to go out and try restaurants they may not have been to before. The event has successfully attracted additional footfall to our business and is especially helpful for boosting trade during quieter periods. We are looking forward to participating again in the future."*

*Georgina Hampshire, Marketing Manager,  
The Star Inn The City*



## Skills School



Over the past year, our Skills School initiative (in partnership with York St John University) has provided 32 fully funded and subsidised courses, upskilling 340 employees in the city and saved local businesses over £45,000. This includes vital First Aid training, delivered to 132 individuals in the last year alone. Other examples of course topics delivered to date are Mental Health Awareness, Leadership & Management Skills, Conflict Management and Disability Awareness.

*"As a levy-paying business in the heart of York, we've had the privilege of participating in the Skills School programme offered by York BID. This initiative has been a game-changer for our small team. We've made use of the Emergency First Aid at Work, Mental Health Champion, and Leadership & Management Skills training courses. Each one is accessible and engaging and is designed to enhance practical skills and foster professional growth, which is a culture we're instilling in our company. The fact that these courses are either fully funded or subsidised is not only extremely helpful to us as a registered charity, but is also a testament to York BID's commitment to supporting local businesses."*

*Amy Sewell, College Services Manager,  
Northern College of Acupuncture*





## City Dressing

Due to increased economic pressures, we have witnessed several large retailers close in key areas of York high street. Where possible, York BID has worked with landlords, agents, and other partners to identify vacant commercial properties that would benefit from window displays and vinyl wraps or present an opportunity for pop-up shops and exhibitions. This initiative leads to quicker letting of empty properties, improved aesthetics of the city for visitors and residents, and reduced anti-social behaviour and loitering.

## York Gift Card

Since the scheme launched in 2019, over £260,000 worth of York Gift Cards have been sold; each locking spend into the city centre economy. Nearly 360 businesses now accept the Gift Card, from hospitality and retail to leisure and attractions, with new businesses joining all the time. We recently launched the digital gift card, allowing even more businesses to join, and held a successful event in October, highlighting the benefits of gifting the cards to employees, customers, and corporate partners.



## Rejuvenation

Four Rejuvenation Days were coordinated in January, which saw over 50 volunteers from across the city cleaning and painting street furniture, such as bike racks, benches, bollards, and bins. More than 150 pieces of individual infrastructure were rejuvenated throughout the city centre. On the back of the project's success, and growing external interest, the BID has committed to running several more Rejuvenation Days to cover all of the city centre's key foot streets, including the riverside.



# Street Rangers

Our Street Rangers are well known in the city centre and have established themselves as an essential first line of support for businesses, residents and visitors alike, who regularly call upon them for support with anti-social behaviour, shoplifters, and other low-level crime. The Rangers also act as ambassadors for the city, offering the public friendly and helpful advice.

The Rangers coordinate monthly meetings to work with a range of partners; engaging with nominals in collaboration with Neighbourhood Enforcement Officers (NEOs), reporting waste and hazards to the Council, and reporting abandoned bicycles to City of York Council in the first step to getting them removed and repurposed. The Rangers also established themselves as a crucial partner in Operation Vault, working with North Yorkshire Police and NEOs, in response to business feedback on increased levels of loitering, drug taking, and ASB. So far, this operation has seen 100 engagements, 15 dispersals, and 12 arrests.

As part of their extensive safety remit, the Rangers are First Aid qualified, throw-line trained, and regularly support successful prosecutions by providing body-worn CCTV footage and witness statements. Through being on the ground every day, they have built connections with rough sleepers and other vulnerable people in the community, and regularly signpost them to support systems. They are also dementia friendly, mental health first aiders and have experience in supporting vulnerable adults and reuniting lost children with their parents.

## During the last year alone, our Rangers have:

- Recovered over £82,000 of stolen stock for local businesses (£21,000 more than last year)
- Detained or deterred 377 incidents of crime, including theft and/or violence
- Detained or deterred 307 cases of anti-social behaviour
- Administered First Aid during 39 separate incidents
- Walked 20,000 steps each per day, whilst on patrol – The equivalent of walking the entire UK coastline more than three times

*"We've had really great experiences with the Street Rangers whenever we call upon them to help with thieves. They are always prompt and lovely, making sure that we feel okay after catching the thief. We love seeing them around York, always a friendly 'hello' and it makes you feel safer on the streets to know that they're out there. We always feel secure in calling them, knowing that there'll be no judgement from them too! They're really lovely to deal with/have a conversation with! We really enjoy working with the Street Rangers!"*

*Courtney Birks, Manager, Give The Dog A Bone*







## Street Cleaning

Our Street Cleaning Team are operational in the city centre seven days a week. They start work at 6am every morning before trading hours begin, working to remove unsightly, unwanted and unsafe waste, including bio-waste, graffiti, drug debris, and homeless litter. The cleaners are aware of all the city centre hotspots where waste and litter appear regularly and work proactively to tackle these areas and keep York's streets looking their best.

A partnership cleaning approach has been implemented, in which the York BID team hotwash pavements and York City Council sweep, to ensure efficiency and best practice across the city.

The rapid response hotline remains a crucial service for levy payers, with the team responding to over 1,250 business call outs during last year alone. The team have also been instrumental in coordinating our successful rejuvenation days to improve the appearance of infrastructure across the city centre. The team also take on more ad-hoc roles, such as installing pigeon spikes, weeding, and cleaning gum and stickers.

### During the last year alone, our Cleaners have:

- Jet-washed over 233,000m<sup>2</sup> of city centre pathways
- Removed over 27,000 pieces of chewing gum
- Removed over 12,000 items of litter (including fly-posters, graffiti, cardboard and glass)
- Cleaned up over 6,600 bio-hazards (including human/animal waste and drug litter)
- Responded to over 1,250 rapid response call outs from local businesses.

*"Chris and Wayne are especially helpful to The Queens Hotel; they make contact with us on a regular basis to see if we need their assistance, especially when the river is in flood. They often offer to help clean up the small street which runs outside our front doors so our guests can access the hotel without muddy feet!"*

*Samantha Ashby, General Manager, The Queens Hotel*



# Purple Flag

Based on its track record of delivering successful safety initiatives, the Council recently appointed York BID as custodians of the city's Purple Flag accreditation, which has successfully been renewed. This prestigious designation means that York offers a vibrant, diverse and, most importantly, safe experience for residents and visitors enjoying the city from the early evening and into the night. York BID is committed to continuing its thriving partnership with North Yorkshire Police and Council Safety Officers to deliver new and innovative safety initiatives.



# Riverside & Taxi Marshals

Our Taxi Marshal scheme returned for its sixth year, now located on both Duncombe Place and St Saviourgate, supported by North Yorkshire Police, City of York Council, local businesses and residents. The Marshals manage queues, deter anti-social behaviour and illegal pick-ups, and reduce noise. The Riverside Marshal scheme has also returned for its third year, working in partnership with door staff and York Rescue Boat to tackle ASB and promote river safety at the Kings Staith and surrounding areas.



# Partnership Experiences

York BID is proud to have sponsored a wide range of local events and initiatives to the value of over £66,000. Family-friendly experiences such as the Snooks Trail, York Ice Trail, and York Unlocked animated the city and encouraged footfall, while York Fashion Week, York Proms, and York Food & Drink Festival helped make the city a more dynamic and engaging place to live and visit. York Pride in June and the Lunar New Year celebration in February celebrated the city's diversity and spirit of inclusivity.

The BID remains committed to working with Indie York, supporting the city's vibrant community of independent businesses. Our partnership with the BAFTA-qualifying Aesthetica Short Film Festival continues to support York's booming creative sector, celebrating our UNESCO City of Media Arts status, and the York Tourism Awards and York Press Business Awards celebrated the achievements of local businesses.





## Green Initiatives & Messaging

From 'go greener' information towers and being the first step in bike recycling journeys, to recyclable York Gift Cards and using environmentally friendly paints for street art, York BID remains committed to sustainability across all programmes.

Increasing the amount of green space in the city centre continues to be a priority for the team. College Green opened in April 2023, transforming the area into a welcoming and colourful space for residents and visitors. Featuring improved seating, fully accessible paths, and low-level play features for families, this pocket park provides an inviting space for the local community and attracts wildlife and pollinators that are crucial for restoring biodiversity in the city centre. The outdoor summer seating also revitalises green spaces, bringing underutilised public spaces to life, and helping to make York a more walkable city.

We have also installed a number of planters, hanging baskets, and meadows across the city, using pollinator friendly wildflowers from a local supplier, to add colour and vibrancy to York's shopping streets.



## Public Seating & Floral Displays

York BID's outdoor seating initiative was originally launched during the pandemic, designed as support for businesses as a space where the public could consume food and drink purchased nearby. Since then, these areas have quickly become a well-loved element of summer activity in the city and, as such, have developed to include new floral displays and family-friendly installations, such as grass animals, for the public to enjoy.

We believe that bringing underutilised public spaces to life supports businesses, expanding their capacity beyond their physical constraints. Last year saw around 400 additional seats, spread over 14 locations, encouraging the public to spend more time outdoors and connect with their local community, making for a more accessible, walkable city. Furthermore, businesses benefit from the additional trade driven by the family-friendly spaces as well as providing places for staff to go for a well-earned break.



# REIGNITE:

## THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF MEDIA ARTS



## Reignite

York BID partnered with Aesthetica Film Festival and Viridian FX to host three Reignite events this year, with plans for several more. These events showcased the transformational role that the creative industries are playing in developing new jobs, skills, and opportunities for young people through creating clear education pathways from primary school through to higher education.

Reignite aspires for York to refocus itself as a regional city that thinks nationally and internationally. It is a vision for the city in which we leverage our UNESCO City of Media Arts status to its full potential, to attract inward investment, develop educational pathways, retain graduates, create more jobs, and quantify the economic impact of the sector on the wider economy of York.

*“Working in partnership with York BID, City of York Council, Make It York, York St John University, Viridian FX, York Museums Trust and other partners, Reignite is changing the face of the creative industries in York. We are galvanising the entire city and reframing the sector through its wide scale economic impact. It’s an exciting moment because there is opportunity for significant growth, graduate retention and job creation. Working in partnership with York BID helps us to deliver such large-scale and impactful events. We have welcomed nearly 1,000 people to Reignite so far. This is a turning point for the city as we press on with this campaign, but there is still much to do as we progress and develop further.”*

*Cherie Federico, Director,  
Aesthetica Magazine*



# The Year Ahead



## Making a Difference

Our Rangers and Cleaners work every day to create and maintain an overall improved experience for those who live, work and thrive in our city. We understand from many years of feedback that businesses value these 'on the ground' services that aids in their day-to-day trading. York BID is committed to keeping these services a priority, ensuring they remain reliable and efficient.



## A Safer York

Off the back of York's freshly renewed Purple Flag status, and working closely with North Yorkshire Police, the Council and other key partners, York BID intends to launch a number of safety initiatives aimed at strengthening York's reputation as a safe place to live, work, study and visit. Proposed schemes include the offer of 'Best Bar None' awards for licensed premises, new lighting for York's riverside areas, as well as a public campaign promoting 'Respect Not Regrets'.



## Promoting York's Retail Offering

In response to feedback from businesses, York BID is devising a new promotional campaign aimed at showcasing York's fantastic retail offering. Drawing on experience from successful campaigns such as York Restaurant Week, we intend to utilise our growing online following to encourage residents to shop during quieter times of the year. A trial of the project will likely launch in tandem with the 2025 Residents' Festival.



## Family Friendly Experiences

It's no myth that consumer behaviour is changing and experience is now a key deciding factor in how the public choose to spend their leisure time and disposable income. York BID is committed to developing activity that compliments York's already strong commercial offering and incentivises residents and their families to visit the city centre at generally quieter periods of the year, through events and promotion.



## Monitoring Economic Performance

York BID periodically brings together data from a variety of sources, as a means of measuring the economic performance of York city centre, identifying key insights such as footfall, spend and hotel occupancy. Moving forward, we are committed to investing in reliable and consistent data sources that offer clear indicators of our high street's 'health', and utilising it to influence decision makers and dispel unproductive myths.



## Animating the City

A new project looks to transform ten exchange boxes on the Stonebow, from overlooked street infrastructure to eye-catching works, celebrating the city's internationally significant stained-glass archives. This project, in partnership with York Explore, York Civic Trust, and York Glaziers Trust, hopes to create unexpected encounters with York's archives and high-quality art through utilising street furniture as a canvas. This project is funded through an engagement grant from The National Archives.



## Snickelway Lighting Project

In early autumn, seven of the city's main snickelways will be transformed through a deep clean, installation of permanent festoon lighting, cigarette bins, and an artistic intervention in partnership with the Civic Trust and University of York celebrating the history of the city. This project aims to deter criminal activity, help residents and visitors feel safe, and improve the appearance and use of the city's snickelways. It is supported by grants from the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner, Safer York Business Partnership, and York Civic Trust.



## Greening The City

This autumn, York BID is collaborating with York Cares to transform North Street Gardens into a welcoming and vibrant green space. This underused pocket of the city has a wealth of local history and sits on a key route through from York Station to the Ouse Bridge. York BID will extend its existing rejuvenation project to the area and is working with York College students to design and paint new murals on the flood defence barriers, which currently detract from the beauty of the area.



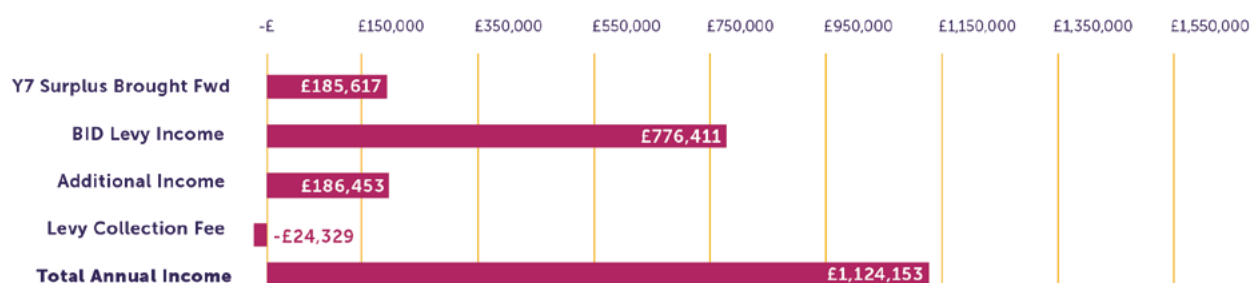
## York Mural Trail

A bespoke mural map will launch this summer, showcasing York BID commissions and existing pieces of street art in the city. The York Mural Trail aspires to encourage narrative journeys by creating destination points in the city, offering new ways to interpret and navigate York, as well as motivating residents and visitors to explore different areas of the city.

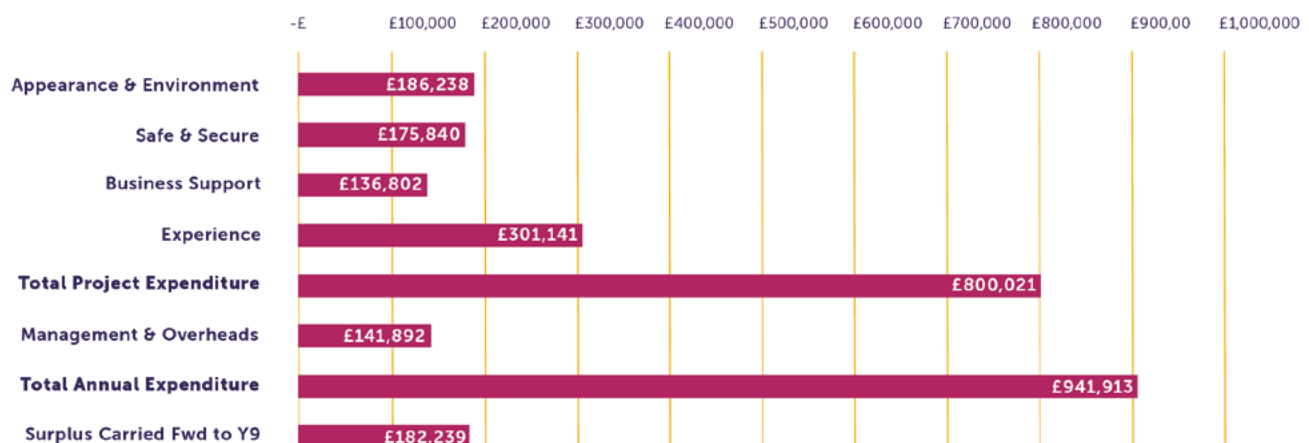
# Financial Review

Financial performance is monitored closely throughout the year by the BID team and overseen by a subcommittee of the Board, with regular reporting to the full Board. Rigorous budgeting is undertaken at the beginning of each year of operations to ensure project spending is kept within financial means. The collection of the levy is managed by City of York Council with invoices sent at the beginning of each financial year. The levy charge has remained at 1% since York BID's inception in 2016.

## Annual Income



## Annual Expenditure



The financial review for 2022/23 confirms a continuation of strong performance with 96% of total levy invoices collected. During last year, over £186k of additional income was raised from external sources, which is the highest amount to date, standing at just under 20% of the total annual income. A healthy cash-flow position has been maintained throughout the year, and sufficient surplus carried into year 9.

The figures shown exclude VAT and are presented as accurate at the time of writing. Full company accounts are prepared by HPH Chartered Accountants and are available at [www.theyorkbid.com/downloads/](http://www.theyorkbid.com/downloads/)

# The York BID Board & Team

## York BID Team

Meet the team who oversee the development, delivery and promotion of York BID's projects, programmes and services.

**Andrew Lawson** – Executive Director

**Carl Alsop** – Operations Manager

**Chris Bush** – Business Manager

**Rachel Bean** – Projects Manager

**Millie Douce** – Marketing & Communications Executive

**Eleanor Richardson** – Projects & Office Administrator



## Year 8 Board Directors & Advisors

York BID is a not-for-profit, independent organisation, governed by a voluntary Board of directors. The Board is made up of representatives from key business sectors across the city centre, as well as partner organisations who oversee the delivery of the BID business plan and support the delivery team with strategic direction.

**Michael Hjort (Chair)** – Owner of Walmgate Ale House

**Neil Sanderson** – Director, York Minster Fund

**Robert Onyett** – Managing Partner,  
Harrowells Solicitors

**Adam Wardale** – General Manager, Middletons Hotel

**Sarah Czarniecki** – Director of The Business Clinic,  
York St John University Business School

**Doug Winter** – Director, Isotoma

**Angela Horner** – Associate Director, Browns of York

**Jenny Layfield** – Chief Executive Officer,  
York Explore Libraries

**Rebecca Layton** – Owner of Galtres Lodge Hotel &  
Forest Restaurant

**Will Zhuang** – Owner of Orchid Vegan Restaurant

**Sarah Loftus** – Managing Director, Make It York

**Cllr Pete Kilbane** – Deputy Leader, City of York Council

**James Gilchrist (Advisor)** – Director of Transport,  
Environment and Planning, City of York Council

**Alistair Graham (Advisor)** – Residents' Representative

**Nicola Arthur (Retired)** – Store Manager, Boots

Board director positions are refreshed every two years, offering the opportunity for other representatives of levy paying businesses to come forward. Director appointments are then ratified by members during the company AGM, which typically takes place during summer each year. Anyone interested in serving as director on the York BID board should contact the team via [info@theyorkbid.com](mailto:info@theyorkbid.com).



# The BID Area

The BID area covers the majority of York city centre, including all streets within the ancient city walls. Just over 900 commercial premises are eligible to pay the annual BID levy, charged to the registered liable party at 1% of their property's rateable value. The chart to the right shows the sector make-up of levy paying businesses.

To see the levy rules and a full list of streets in the area visit <https://www.theyorkbid.com/about-bid-levy/>.



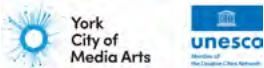
- Sector breakdown**
- Retail – 41%
  - Hospitality – 31%
  - Professional Services – 13%
  - Leisure – 7%
  - Other – 8%



# Thank you

Working with partners is key to York BID's success. We'd like to take this opportunity to say a huge thanks to all of the organisations and local businesses who work and collaborate with us regularly, a small number of which are shown below.

**We are proud to be working together for a stronger York.**







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