

York BID Bulletin

APRIL 2026



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Foreword

In October, York BID secured an overwhelming 91% “yes” vote in its renewal ballot, confirming a strong mandate from the business community for a further five-year term. April 2026 marks the beginning of this new phase, with a refreshed set of ambitions which are set out in a new Business Plan, available on the BID website.

The renewed BID introduces several important changes. These include an expansion of the geographical boundary to incorporate 10 additional streets, and an increase in the levy multiplier from 1% to 1.6%. These adjustments will ensure we can continue to deliver valuable services for our members and sustain meaningful investment in York city centre. Overleaf, you will find a selection of ‘Project Highlights’, showcasing just some of the activity delivered by our team over the past 12 months, all of which we aim to continue and grow in the years ahead.

About York BID

York BID is a not-for-profit organisation, run by a small team, dedicated to delivering initiatives that strengthen York city centre’s economy, enhance its environment, and build its reputation as a vibrant place to live, work, and visit. Our work focuses on raising standards of safety and cleanliness, while attracting more visitors, families, professionals, and investors to the city.

Since launching in April 2016, the BID has invested over £9.2 million into projects and services for York

city centre, of which £1.7 million is addition income leveraged from external sources. In the year ahead, we expect to deliver £1.2 million of activity, including £383,000 of externally funded investment, equating to an additional 34p for every £1 raised through the levy.

We would like to encourage you to attend our upcoming BID Company AGM on the evening of 16th July 2026. This is an opportunity to learn more about our work, meet the Board of Directors, and hear about our recent performance and plans for the future.

Levy Collection (2026–27)

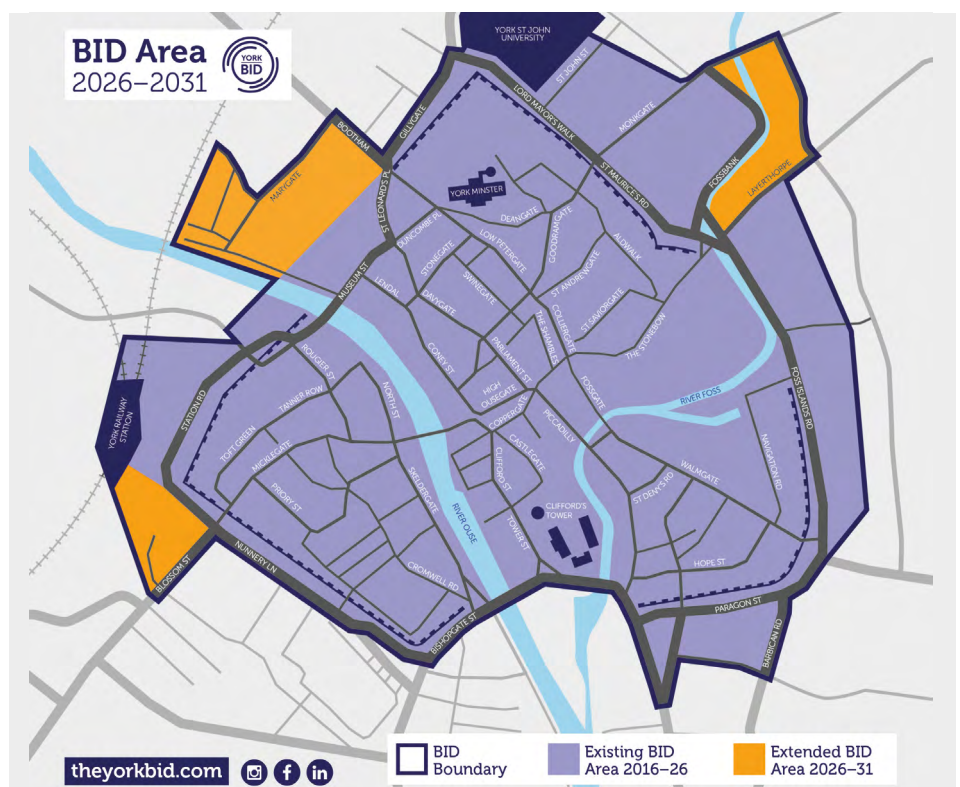
As the ratepayer of a business occupying commercial premises within the BID area, you are one of approximately 1,000 members contributing to the annual BID levy. From April 2026, the levy is set at 1.6% of your property’s rateable value (based on the 2023 valuation). Properties with

a rateable value below £17,500 are exempt but may choose to join through our voluntary membership scheme.

Your levy invoice for the period April 2026 to March 2027 is enclosed with this bulletin and is payable to City of York Council. Full payment details can be found on the reverse of your bill.

If you are receiving a levy invoice for the first time, we would be pleased to hear from you and provide further information on BID projects, services, and the value we deliver for your investment. If you have any questions about your bill, or if you are experiencing difficulty making payment, please contact our team on **01904 809970** or via email at info@theyorkbid.com.

Further information about the BID levy can be found on our website: www.theyorkbid.com/about/the-bid-levy



Project Highlights 2025/2026

A snapshot of some of the most impactful projects and services delivered by York BID over the past 12 months:



Rejuvenation Days:

Volunteers refreshed over **300** pieces of street furniture, improving the look and feel of the city centre



York Winter Lights:

Our annual festive display illuminated **17.5km** of city centre streets, featuring **175,000** individual LED bulbs



Public Art: 870ft² of

permanent street murals created by local artists, enhancing the city's cultural landscape



Shop York: Our promotional campaign ran for **50 days** across February and March, featuring over **100 participating retailers**, encouraging residents to shop local and support independent businesses

Colour & Light: Hosted at Castle Museum and Clifford's Tower, our February 2026 event attracted over **75,000** visitors. Of those surveyed, **78%** also visited city centre businesses during their trip



York Gift Card: Over **£98,000** in gift cards sold in the past year, redeemable at more than **350** city centre businesses

York Skills School: Delivered subsidised training to **145** city centre employees, supporting workforce development

Public Seating & Children's Play: Over **400** seats installed in high-footfall areas during the summer, alongside children's play features and family-friendly trails



Street Cleaning: Nearly **500,000m²** of pavements jet washed and approximately **100,000** pieces of chewing gum removed

Street Rangers: Recovered nearly **£64,000** worth of stolen goods and intervened in almost **600** incidents of crime or anti-social behaviour

York Restaurant Week:

Events held in October and March attracted nearly **60,000** customers, generating over **£2.5 million** in additional spend for local hospitality businesses