



Annual Review 2025–26

www.theyorkbid.com

A message from our Chair



Michael Hjort | Chair of York BID
Owner, Walmgate Ale
House Director, York Food & Drink Festival

Working together for a stronger York has never been more important. 2026 marks not only the beginning of a new five-year term for York BID, but the start of a renewed programme shaped by collaboration, resilience and shared purpose.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to extend our sincere thanks to York's business community for the confidence shown in the recent ballot, where an overwhelming 91% voted in favour of continuing the BID. This powerful mandate reflects both the value of our collective work and the trust placed in us to deliver meaningful improvements for the city centre. It also provides a strong foundation on which we can build the next chapter together.

“Together, with continued collaboration and shared purpose, we will build on our strong foundations to ensure York City Centre not only endures, but thrives in the years ahead.”

This is a moment to reflect with pride on how far York BID has come over the past decade. From its early foundations to a mature, forward-thinking organisation, the BID has evolved in both scale and scope, delivering initiatives that transform the city experience. Upcoming projects such as our new riverside lighting and vibrant pop-up children's play space demonstrate how creative, targeted



interventions can bring fresh energy to York and support our diverse business community.

However, we remain clear sighted about the challenges ahead. Businesses continue to operate in a complex landscape shaped by economic pressures and wider uncertainty. In this environment, the role of the BID is more critical than ever, providing stability, advocacy and proactive support, while championing the needs of the city's businesses and ensuring York remains a compelling place to live, work, visit and invest.

As we move into our third term, we are committed to delivering a targeted and effective programme that responds directly to these challenges. We will continue to focus on driving footfall throughout the year, particularly during quieter periods, boosting spend across retail, hospitality and leisure, and providing practical, day-to-day support to businesses on the issues that matter most to them.

Together, with continued collaboration and shared purpose, we will build on our strong foundations to ensure York City Centre not only endures, but thrives in the years ahead.

Welcome

Welcome to this year's Annual Review of York BID, showcasing the breadth and impact of our activity over the past 12 months. We hope you will agree that this report reflects a diverse and ambitious programme of delivery, resulting in tangible improvements that benefit businesses, residents, visitors and the wider city.

York BID is delivered by a small dedicated team, committed to strengthening the city centre economy, enhancing the quality of the environment, and promoting York as a vibrant destination to live, work and visit. Our work is centred on raising standards, improving safety and cleanliness, while also attracting visitors, families, professionals and investors to the city throughout the year.

Partnership remains at the heart of everything we do. Collaboration is essential to maximising impact, and we work closely with a wide range of organisations, stakeholders and city partners to unlock opportunities, share resources and ensure a joined-up approach to supporting York. Page 19 highlights just some of the partnerships that underpin our work.

York BID is also part of a wider national network of more than 340 Business Improvement Districts across the UK. Over the past two decades, BIDs have become a vital mechanism for strengthening town and city centres, particularly in response to ongoing pressures on public sector funding. Collectively, they are estimated to have invested over £1 billion into local places, helping to ensure that high streets remain vibrant, welcoming and competitive.

As these pressures continue, the role of BIDs is more important than ever, providing leadership, investment and coordination to support businesses and sustain thriving high streets.

About York BID

- ✱ A not-for-profit limited company, established in April 2016
- ✱ One of over 340 BIDs currently operating across the UK
- ✱ Representing nearly 1,000 businesses within York City Centre
- ✱ In 2025, 91% of businesses voted in favour of a third BID term
- ✱ £7.9 million invested into York City Centre over the past 10 years
- ✱ £1.7 million of additional income leveraged over the same period

Together, these achievements demonstrate the strength of the BID model and the collective commitment of the city's business community to shaping a successful future for York.



Why Local Spend Matters

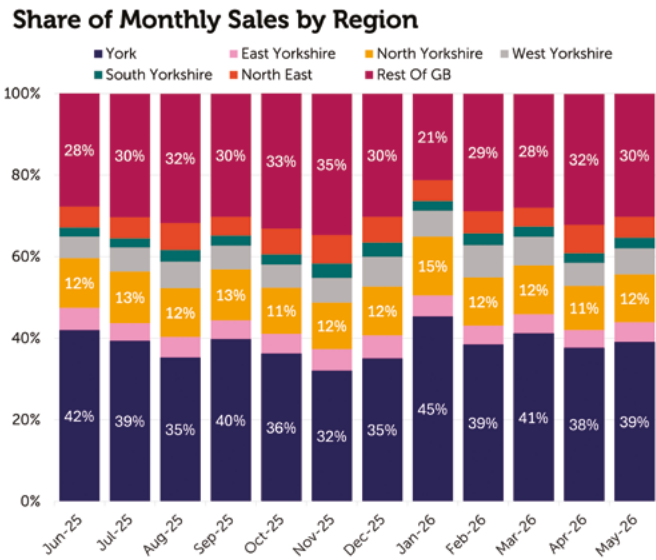


Andrew Lowson |
Executive Director,
York BID

During a recent strategy day, our Board reinforced a clear message from the consultation: BID programmes should continue to focus on bringing local residents into the city centre, particularly at off-peak times. We do not take tourists for granted, and Visit York will continue its excellent work to attract visitors. However, regular use of the high street by local people supports a more diverse business mix, including businesses that are less dependent on tourism.

“Residents remain central to York’s city centre economy, which is why the BID’s future activities will focus on increasing local engagement further.”

The share of monthly sales by region shows that a significant proportion of spending is driven by the



local and regional catchment. Just as importantly, the data highlights the breadth of that local spend. Residents are not only engaging with hospitality or visitor-led activity; they are also supporting a wider range of retail categories, including department stores, general retail and hardware. These are essential parts of a functioning high street economy and are less likely to be sustained through tourism alone.

The suggestion that local residents avoid the city centre is therefore not supported by the evidence. Residents remain central to York’s city centre economy, which is why the BID’s future activities will focus on increasing local engagement further. The local catchment plays a critical role in underpinning the diversity, resilience and long-term strength of York’s offer.

A further strength highlighted by the data is the consistency of local spend. Unlike tourism, which is seasonal by nature, residents provide year-round support for the high street, particularly during quieter periods. This stability is vital for businesses managing cashflow and staffing outside peak trading months.

This diversity is also important for professional services. As hybrid working has become the norm, the importance of place has increased for the office sector. A healthy high street encourages workers into the office, making safe, clean and well-managed public spaces fundamental to the city centre’s wider economic performance.

In uncertain economic conditions, a strong sense of place and community matters more than ever. The data underlines why our new five-year business plan is focused on the fundamentals: cleanliness, safety and experience. Getting these basics right is not only about perception; it is about sustaining the local customer base that underpins the long-term health of York’s high street.

Year 10 Key Statistics



£1.1 million

York Restaurant Week attracted nearly **60,000** customers, generating **£1.1 million** in additional spend for participating hospitality businesses



£64,000

Street Rangers recovered nearly **£64,000** of stolen stock and intervened in almost **600** incidents of crime or anti-social behaviour



£98,000

Over **£98,000** worth of York Gift Cards sold in the past year, redeemable at more than **350** city centre businesses



75,000+

Colour & Light 2026, hosted at Castle Museum and Clifford’s Tower, attracted over **75,000** viewers



100+

Shop York ran a **50** day campaign during February and March, promoting over **100** local retail businesses



£354,000

Over **£354,000** of additional income leveraged from external sources to fund BID projects



500,000m²

Street cleaners jet washed over **500,000 m²** of city centre pathways and removed approximately **100,000** pieces of chewing gum



400

Provision of **400** additional public seating during the summer months, alongside children’s play features and family-friendly trails



275

York Skills School delivered subsidised training to **275** city centre employees, supporting workforce development



17.5km

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



700+

300 volunteers refreshed over **700** pieces of city centre street furniture as part of the BID’s Rejuvenation Days



870ft²

Introduced **870ft²** of new permanent public street art installations, created by local artists

Experience

A Vibrant & Entertaining City



Ghosts in the Gardens & Ghosts: The Untold History
Now firmly established as a cornerstone of York’s cultural calendar, ‘Ghosts in the Gardens’ attracted thousands of residents and visitors to the city between September and November. Created in partnership with Unconventional Design, the trail featured 60 historic sculptures encouraging visitors and residents to explore new corners of the city.

Building on the success of the trail, ‘Ghosts: The Untold History’ launched as a new evening experience at St Anthony’s Garden. Designed for audiences aged 15+, the four-night event encouraged people to stay in the city after 5pm, supporting the evening economy and creating a smoother transition from day into night.

Colour & Light
This highly anticipated event returned in February 2026 at the Eye of York, illuminating two of York’s landmark buildings together for the first time. Innovative 3D projection mapping transformed York Castle Museum and Clifford’s Tower into dynamic works of art, synced with the illuminated tree.

Delivered in partnership with York Museums Trust and English Heritage, and funded by the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority, the free event welcomed more than 75,000 viewers over 19 days, taking total attendance to 250,000, across four years.

Colour & Light continues to deliver tangible benefits for city centre businesses. Visitor surveys showed 80% stayed longer in the city because of our event, 78% visited a local business, and most travelled to York specifically to experience Colour & Light.

Winter Lights
Our Winter Lights programme creates a festive and welcoming atmosphere for residents, visitors, and businesses alike. Delivered in partnership with Make It York, the display illuminated more than 50 streets from November to February, continuing one of the UK’s most extensive festive lighting schemes into the quieter post-Christmas months.

Featuring 175,000 LED lights, twinkly trees on Parliament Street, a giant illuminated Santa’s postbox in Museum Gardens, and festive projections in St Helen’s Square, the scheme helps drive footfall throughout the city, extends dwell time, and reinforces York’s reputation as one of the UK’s most festive destinations.



Family Friendly Trails & Events
We delivered a range of free, family-friendly trails and events designed to engage young children and their families.

In August, York’s Biggest Rugby Ball Hunt celebrated the arrival of the Women’s Rugby World Cup in York, bringing hundreds of families into the city centre. Alongside the citywide hunt, Parliament Street hosted free activities and live demonstrations from local rugby clubs.

The York Nutcracker Trail ran from November to January, featuring ten giant nutcracker sculptures designed by local children. The trail encouraged exploration of the city, spreading festive footfall across York.

We delivered six Family Friendly Saturdays across the year, bringing in free entertainment to the city centre, from interactive games to animal characters.

We also proudly supported popular citywide events, including the York Ice Trail and York Food & Drink Festival, helping animate the city centre and strengthen York’s year-round events programme.



Polly Bennett
Founder & Editor, Little Vikings

“York BID’s family-friendly events have become a real highlight of the city’s calendar for local families. Initiatives such as Ghosts in the Gardens, Family Friendly Saturdays and the Nutcracker Trail provide free, engaging activities that encourage residents to spend time together in the city centre, explore different parts of York and create lasting memories. These events help make the city feel welcoming, vibrant and accessible for families throughout the year, while supporting local businesses and bringing communities together.”



Business Support

A Strong Voice for Businesses



Shop York

Shop York returned for a second year, in partnership with Indie York, to support retail businesses during a typically quieter time of year. Running from January to March, the 50-day campaign aimed to encourage residents to support local during the quieter winter months and rediscover the joy of shopping on the high street.

A total of 105 businesses took part, with the campaign reaching more than 123,000 social media accounts. Customer surveys show 68% of participants were residents; 79% said the campaign encouraged them to visit new shops, and 79% felt more strongly about supporting local businesses as a result.

York Restaurant Week

York Restaurant Week has grown into one of the largest events of its kind in the UK. The event takes place each March and October, championing the city's hospitality sector and celebrating the quality and diversity of York's food and drink offer.

123 businesses took part in our March event, during which over 28,000 vouchers were downloaded,

representing nearly £505,000 of customer spend. Since launching, the event has generated an estimated economic impact of more than £7 million for York's hospitality sector. The event is hugely popular with residents – nearly 90% of customers live, work, or study in the city centre – and many use Restaurant Week to try out new venues that become firm favourites.

York Gift Card

The York Gift Card keeps spending local, ensuring money is reinvested into our city centre businesses rather than being spent online or in out-of-town shopping centres. Since launching in 2019, the scheme has grown to become one of the largest city gift card programmes in the UK, with more than 350 participating businesses. Almost £300,000 worth of cards have been sold to date, with nearly £100,000 in the last year alone, providing a direct and measurable benefit to York businesses while encouraging people to shop, dine, and experience more of what our city has to offer.

Skills School

Through our partnership with York St John University, we delivered 24 Skills School courses to more than 275 city centre employees over the past year. Training covered essential qualifications such as First Aid and Personal Licence certification, alongside practical support to help businesses prepare for legislative changes, including Martyn's Law and the Employment Rights Act. By providing subsidised and free training, we are helping businesses build skills, confidence, and resilience across their teams.



Business Voice & Support York

As part of the York Business Festival, we partnered with HSBC UK and York St John University to deliver the Autumn Budget Brunch, providing businesses with expert insight into the Autumn Budget just days after its announcement.

When concerns were raised about changes to business rates, we assessed the potential local impact and advocated strongly on behalf of York businesses. Our findings were cited by Rachel Maskell MP during Prime Minister's Questions, helping to ensure York's business community was represented in the national debate and contributing to the introduction of additional business rates relief for pubs and music venues across the UK.

We also launched Support York, a City of York Council-funded initiative delivered by York BID.

The programme uses York Gift Card giveaways to help sustain trade for businesses during roadworks and other disruptions, helping to reduce the negative economic impact. Designed for rapid deployment, the initiative has provided targeted support to businesses affected by works in High Petergate and King's Square.

Reignite

We partnered with Aesthetica to deliver five Reignite events over the past year. North Yorkshire's leading cultural summit, Reignite aspires for York to refocus itself as a regional city that thinks nationally and internationally. Through Reignite, we were part of the York Culture Strategy launch, placing culture at the heart of the city's economic, social, and civic future.



Richard Webb
Chief Executive, City of York Council

"York's success is built on strong partnerships, and the close collaboration between City of York Council, York BID, and organisations across the city continues to deliver real benefits for businesses, residents, and visitors alike. Whether through events, public realm improvements, business support, or initiatives that make York safer and more accessible, our shared commitment to the city is helping ensure York remains one of the best places in the country to live, work, visit, and invest."



Appearance

A Cleaner & Greener City



Outside the Box & York Art Trail

As part of our work to create a safer, cleaner and more vibrant city centre, we expanded the Outside the Box programme, transforming 60 utility cabinets across Parliament Street, Piccadilly and surrounding areas into 'mini murals' celebrating York's history, culture and natural heritage.

By replacing graffiti and fly-posting with vibrant public art, the initiative enhances the city centre while forming part of the wider York Art Trail. In June, the trail was extended with a mural in North Street Gardens to mark the centenary of Joseph Rowntree. Funded by Nestlé and commissioned by York BID, the artwork has helped revitalise one of York's hidden gems.

City Dressing

We installed a new artwork celebrating the history of the River Foss on the long-empty Castle Mills hoarding, turning a former graffiti hotspot into a vibrant work of art. The mural features a timeline of the River Foss, made in partnership with York Civic Trust.

The digital mural is the largest public art commission in York and celebrates our city's status as a UNESCO City of Media Arts. It forms part of our wider programme of investment in public spaces, helping create a cleaner, safer, and more vibrant city centre.

Snickelways Rejuvenation Programme

In October, we concluded an ambitious initiative to revitalise seven key Snickelways. Although the quickest way to move around the city, the Snickelways were dark, neglected, and attracted criminal activity.

We installed permanent festoon lighting, cigarette bins, and a free history trail in partnership with York Civic Trust and the University of York, with the aim of improving the Snickelways' appearance, use and safety. With regular deep cleans and a dedicated maintenance schedule, the Snickelways will remain welcoming spaces for years to come.

Summer Seating & Play

We installed more than 400 additional seats across ten city centre locations, alongside grass animal sculptures and pollinator-friendly planters. These family-friendly spaces brought underused areas to life, increased dwell time, and gave residents, visitors, and



workers places to relax. Some locations were chosen to help address loitering and anti-social behaviour by encouraging more positive use of public spaces.

We also launched Tommy Treebark's Wild Adventure, a six-month trail featuring 50 wild Yorkshire animals hidden on BID benches, encouraging families to explore York and return throughout the year. We continue to maintain the much-loved Paddington bench in Dean's Park for the many people who visit it.

Rejuvenation Days

In the past year, we coordinated 14 Rejuvenation Days, a volunteer-led initiative that aims to improve the appearance of city centre infrastructure by cleaning and repainting tired-looking benches, bike racks, bollards, bins, and other street furniture. Since launching in 2024, we've built a dedicated and growing network of over 300 volunteers, made up of local residents, businesses, and community groups.

In total, over 2,000 pieces of individual infrastructure have been repainted across 66 streets in York. The project also enables us to respond directly to local concerns, helping restore areas affected by high river levels, wear and tear, or other challenges.

Street Cleaning

Our small but mighty Street Cleaning team works seven days a week to keep our city looking its best. Starting before most of the city wakes up, the team tackles key hotspots each morning, removing graffiti, litter, biohazards, and drug debris to ensure the city remains clean, safe, and welcoming for businesses, residents, and visitors.

The rapid response service remains a valued benefit for levy payers, helping businesses maintain clean and attractive frontages for customers. By being on the ground every day, the team knows the city's hotspots and proactively maintains standards across the city centre.

In the last year alone, our Cleaners have:

- ✓ Jet washed over 500,000m² of city centre pathways
- ✓ Removed approximately 100,000 pieces of chewing gum
- ✓ Removed over 2,700 pieces of graffiti and fly posting
- ✓ Cleaned up nearly 10,000 pieces of left rubbish and bio waste
- ✓ Responded to over 300 rapid response requests



Andrew Morrison
Chief Executive Officer, York Civic Trust

"York BID has played a significant role in the continued success of York City Centre over the past ten years. York Civic Trust have collaborated with the BID on a variety of projects enhancing the city centre and bringing the city's heritage to a public audience through different media. The team have been very receptive to new ideas from the Civic Trust and clearly demonstrated a real drive to deliver projects to enhance the city centre for people of all ages. Our partnership has been both productive and rewarding."



Safe

A Safe & Welcoming City

Street Rangers

Our award-winning Street Rangers remain one of the most valued services we provide, acting as a visible and reassuring presence for businesses, residents, and visitors every day.

Working closely with North Yorkshire Police, City of York Council, and local charities, the Rangers help tackle shop theft, anti-social behaviour, street drinking, cycle theft, and other challenges. Through joint operations, intelligence sharing, and regular partner meetings, the team play an important role in supporting successful prosecutions and improving outcomes for prolific offenders. Their on the ground presence means they have extensive knowledge of local issues and have responded to 6,138 incidents involving known offenders in the past year.

The team are First Aid qualified and throw-line trained, and regularly support successful prosecutions by providing body-worn CCTV footage and witness statements. As ambassadors for the city, they assist vulnerable individuals, help reunite lost children, report abandoned bicycles and provide advice and support, helping to make York a safer, more welcoming and accessible place for everyone.

In the last year alone, our Street Rangers have:

- ✓ Recovered nearly £64,000 worth of stolen stock
- ✓ Responded to nearly 600 shop thefts or instances of anti-social behaviour
- ✓ Assisted the Police and partners during 777 incidents
- ✓ Administered First Aid to the public over 100 times

Marshal Programmes

We delivered three externally funded Marshal programmes, providing 18 hours of city centre cover on the days they operate.

Taxi Marshals operated at key city centre ranks from April to December, helping reduce anti-social behaviour and minimise disruption for nearby businesses. Riverside Marshals promoted river safety at King's Staith throughout the busy summer period, while our newly launched Night Safe Officers worked alongside venues, door staff, and emergency services to identify and de-escalate issues before they developed into more serious incidents.

Family Friendly Saturdays

As part of our Purple Flag programme, we delivered 6 Family Friendly Saturdays, bringing free family-friendly entertainment to the city centre, including immersive games and animal characters. As well as increasing footfall, the initiative aims to change the use of city centre spaces on Saturday afternoons and create vibrant, family-friendly experiences.

York BID Safety Network

Based on our track record of delivering successful safety initiatives, we were trusted with coordinating the city's Business Crime Reduction Partnership (BCRP), on behalf of City of York Council, after it was put at risk of closure due to the retirement of its former coordinator. As part of our accredited BCRP, the York BID Safety Network, businesses have access to a range of tools and initiatives designed to reduce the impact of crime and anti-social behaviour.

The city-wide radio scheme and Alert reporting system are valuable tools for sharing real-time updates on crime, anti-social behaviour, and potential offenders.



We also facilitate PubWatch and have launched ShopWatch, bringing together businesses, Police, and the Council to coordinate approaches to city centre challenges.

Best Bar None recognises excellence in licensed venues. We were recognised nationally, winning Best New Scheme at the Best Bar None Awards, and hosted our first local awards ceremony, celebrating the 22 businesses that achieved accreditation and demonstrated their commitment to providing safe and well-managed venues.

Purple Flag

In February 2026, we led the successful renewal of the city's Purple Flag accreditation, recognising York as one of the safest, most vibrant, and well-managed nighttime destinations in the UK for the fifth consecutive year. Strong partnership work is key to successful accreditation, and we're proud to coordinate the York Safe Partnership, the city's leading multi-agency safety forum.

We delivered a range of public-facing initiatives, including a video campaign that reached 250,000

social media views, a Martyn's Law Business Engagement Event, and 6 Family Friendly Saturdays.



Jen Stockwell
Neighbourhood Policing Team
Inspector - York Inner

"The strong partnership between North Yorkshire Police, York BID and local agencies continues to make a tangible difference to the safety and vitality of York City Centre. Through initiatives such as Street Rangers, Night Safe Officers, Taxi Marshals, Purple Flag, the York Safety Network and the Safer York Partnership, partners provide a visible, coordinated presence that helps prevent incidents, support businesses and visitors, and resolve issues quickly."

This collaborative approach strengthens confidence in York as a safe, welcoming and well-managed city, helping maintain its reputation as a vibrant place to live, work and visit."



The Year Ahead

Exciting New & Upcoming Projects



York Art Trail

We will continue to grow the York Art Trail, creating new destination points across the city. This autumn, we will unveil a new mural on Monkgate celebrating the area's rich history. Delivered in partnership with York Civic Trust, York St John University, and City of York Council, the artwork has been shaped through engagement with local residents.



Outside the Box

We're also expanding our Outside the Box project which transforms cabinet boxes with vinyl artwork to deter vandalism and brighten the city centre. New artwork will be installed in St Helen's Square in line with the next Rejuvenation Days, creating a more welcoming environment for all.



The Tempest Play Area

Thanks to a £97,000 grant from the Vibrant & Sustainable High Streets Fund, awarded by Mayor David Skaith and the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority, we are delivering a new semi-permanent children's play area. Opening this summer in partnership with Make It York and Thor's, the project will create a much-needed family attraction, encouraging more frequent visits and longer stays.

Riverside Lighting

We secured a further grant of £85,000 from the Vibrant & Sustainable High Streets Fund to deliver a new lighting scheme on King's Staith. Delivered in partnership with City of York Council and supported by City Cruises, the project will improve the atmosphere, visibility, and feeling of safety around one of York's most historic, but often overlooked, riverside spaces after dark.



York Economic Data Hub

Launched in April, the York Economic Data Hub is a free platform developed with York St John University and funded by the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority. It provides monthly insights, offering a clear, data-led view of York's economy and helping businesses and decision-makers respond to trends and plan with confidence. This scheme was recently recognised for a national award by the Association of Town & Centre Management (ATCM).

the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority, the second conference will be delivered in autumn.

Best Bar None

We held the inaugural York Best Bar None Awards in June, celebrating well-managed licensed venues, and are looking forward to growing the scheme. By supporting high standards across York's licensed venues, we are helping ensure York remains one of the UK's leading nighttime destinations.

It's All York

We have refreshed our short film, named 'It's All York', to highlight the city's commercial strengths, showcase its exciting pipeline of developments, and support efforts to attract vital new investment. An accompanying stakeholder pack positions the film as a versatile promotional asset, enabling partners across the city to share a consistent and compelling story about York.



Ghosts After Dark

Following the success of Ghosts After Dark in 2024, we're thrilled to partner with York Museums Trust to bring back the event this November. We know that 70% of attendees had a meal or drink in York as part of their visit in 2024, and we're excited to extend the event's benefit to York's retail businesses with a new night market.



Momentum York

In June, we delivered a brand-new professional services conference, bringing together more than 140 professionals, exhibitors, and city and regional leaders with the aim of positioning York as a hub for professional excellence in the UK. Funded by

Your BID

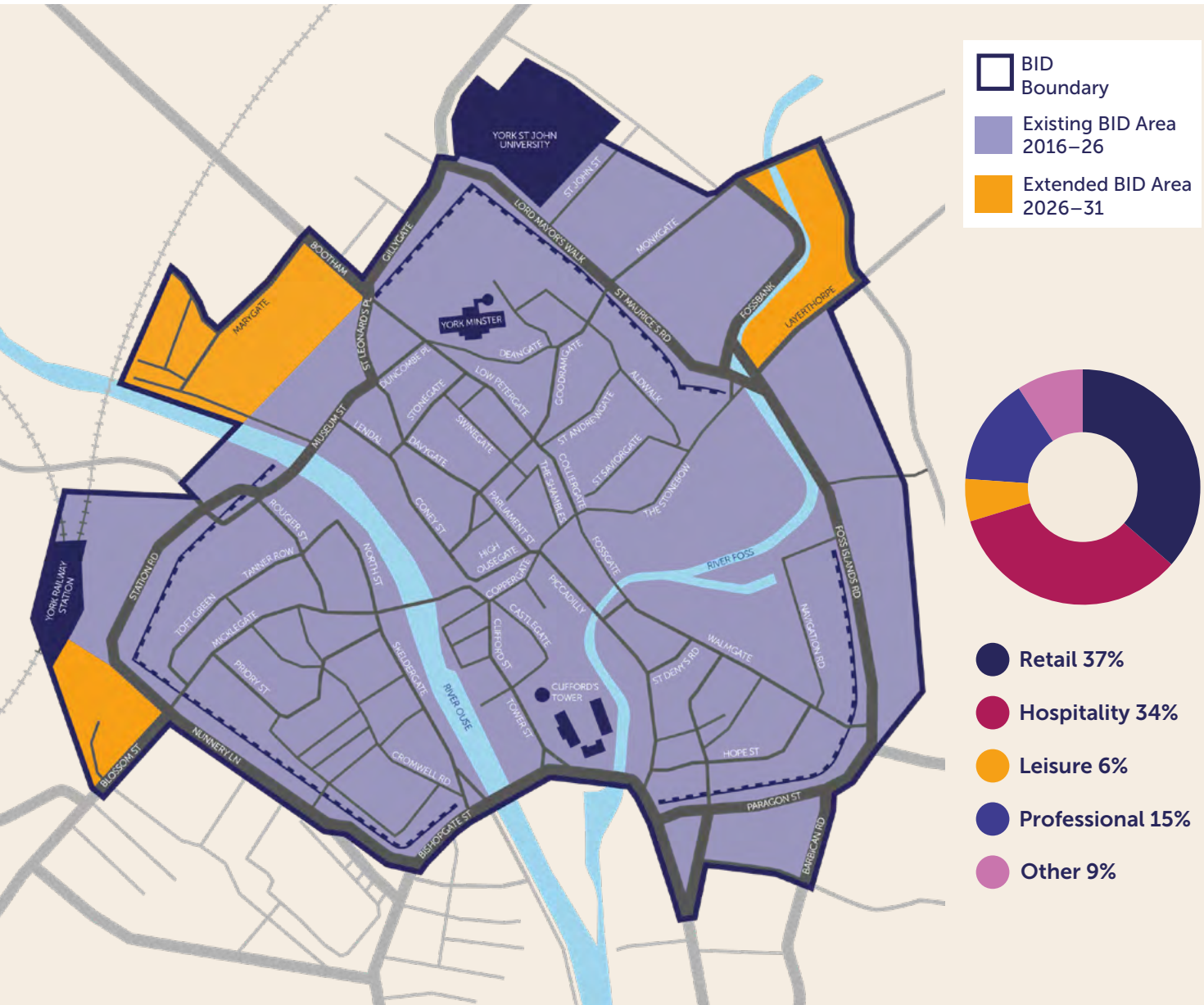
The BID Area & Membership

York BID represents a vibrant community of almost 1,000 businesses located within a clearly defined city centre boundary. These businesses (each with a rateable value of £17,500 or above and contributing through the mandatory annual levy) span retail, hospitality, leisure and professional services. Together, they form a dynamic and diverse membership, with a strong presence of independent businesses that are central to York’s distinctive character and appeal.

As we enter the new BID term, several important changes have been introduced to strengthen our collective impact. The BID boundary has been

expanded to include 10 additional streets, extending our reach and ensuring more businesses benefit from coordinated investment and activity across the city centre. In addition, the levy rate has increased from 1% to 1.6% of a property’s rateable value. These changes will enable York BID to deliver an even more ambitious programme over the next five years, investing in initiatives that drive footfall, enhance the city centre environment, and support businesses in a meaningful and sustained way.

For further information, please refer to the BID Business Plan 2026-31, available at:
www.theyorkbid.com/about-downloads/



Meet the Team

Our love for York and local businesses means we have attracted ambitious and dedicated professionals with a wealth of experience across all sectors of business. Our award-winning team, made up of locals and graduates from York universities, wear their BID badges with pride. They are passionate and proactive ambassadors for the city and our businesses. Our Street Rangers and Cleaning Teams are highly-trained and experienced at what they do, and their passion for the city shines through every interaction.

Andrew Lawson – Executive Director

Carl Alsop – Operations Manager

Chris Bush – Business Manager

Rachel Bean – Project Manager

Eleanor Richardson – Projects & Communications Executive

Alice Bentley – PR & Marketing Lead

Sara Bull – Events & Engagement Coordinator



Meet the Board

York BID is governed by a voluntary Board of 14 directors and 3 advisors, who oversee the delivery of the five-year business plan and provide our team with strategic direction. The Board is made up of influential representatives from across all sectors of business. Board positions are renewed every two years and are ratified at the BID’s Annual General Meetings. York BID is a registered limited company, operating in accordance with a formal set of Articles of Association. Further details regarding our governance, accountability, and transparency can be found at www.theyorkbid.com

Michael Hjort (Chair) – Owner, Walmgate Ale House

Robert Onyett – Managing Partner, Harrowells Solicitors

Jenny Layfield – Chief Executive Officer, York Explore Libraries

Angela Horner – Associate Director, Browns of York

David Colthup – Chapter Steward & Chief Operating Officer, York Minster

Rebecca Layton – Owner, Galtres Lodge Hotel & Forest Restaurant

Will Zhuang – Owner, Orchid Vegan Restaurant

Tom Calvert – Director, Avorium

Oliver Stott – General Manager, Middletons Hotel

Sarah Loftus – Managing Director, Make It York

Cllr Pete Kilbane – Deputy Leader, City of York Council

Doug Winter (Retired) – Director, Isotoma

Chris Pegg (Advisor) – Head of Regional Commercial, Sales & Marketing, City Cruises

Garry Taylor (Advisor) – Director of City Development, City of York Council

Alistair Graham (Advisor) – Residents’ Representative

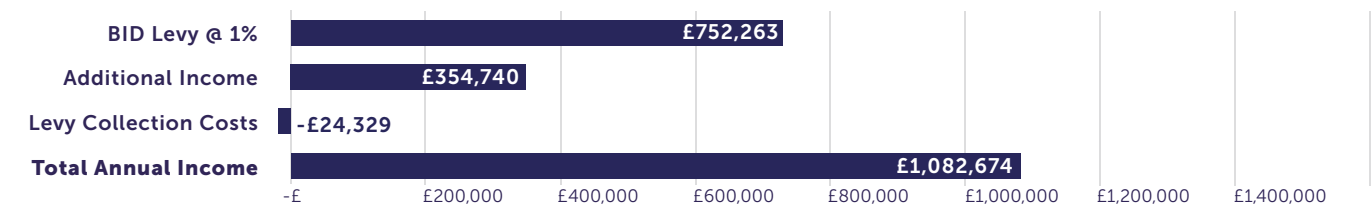
Financial Review

Financial performance is closely monitored throughout the year by the BID team and is subject to oversight from the Board and a dedicated Finance & Governance Sub-committee. A robust budgeting process is undertaken at the start of each financial year to ensure that all project expenditure remains within the organisation’s financial capacity. Levy collection

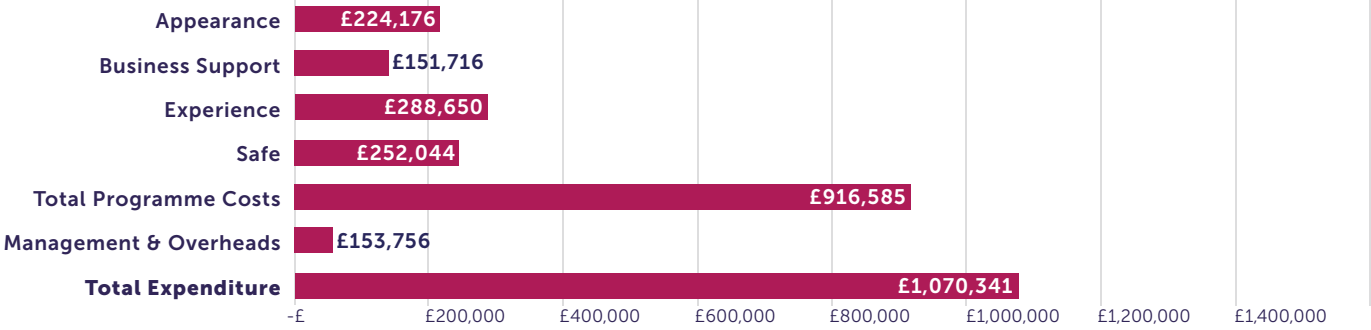
is administered by City of York Council, with invoices issued at the beginning of each financial year.

The tables below provide a summary of financial performance for the BID’s tenth year of operation, covering the period from April 2025 to March 2026.

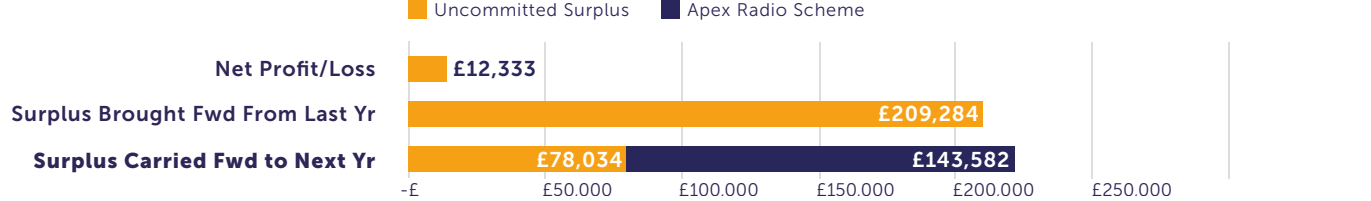
Income



Expenditure



Reserves



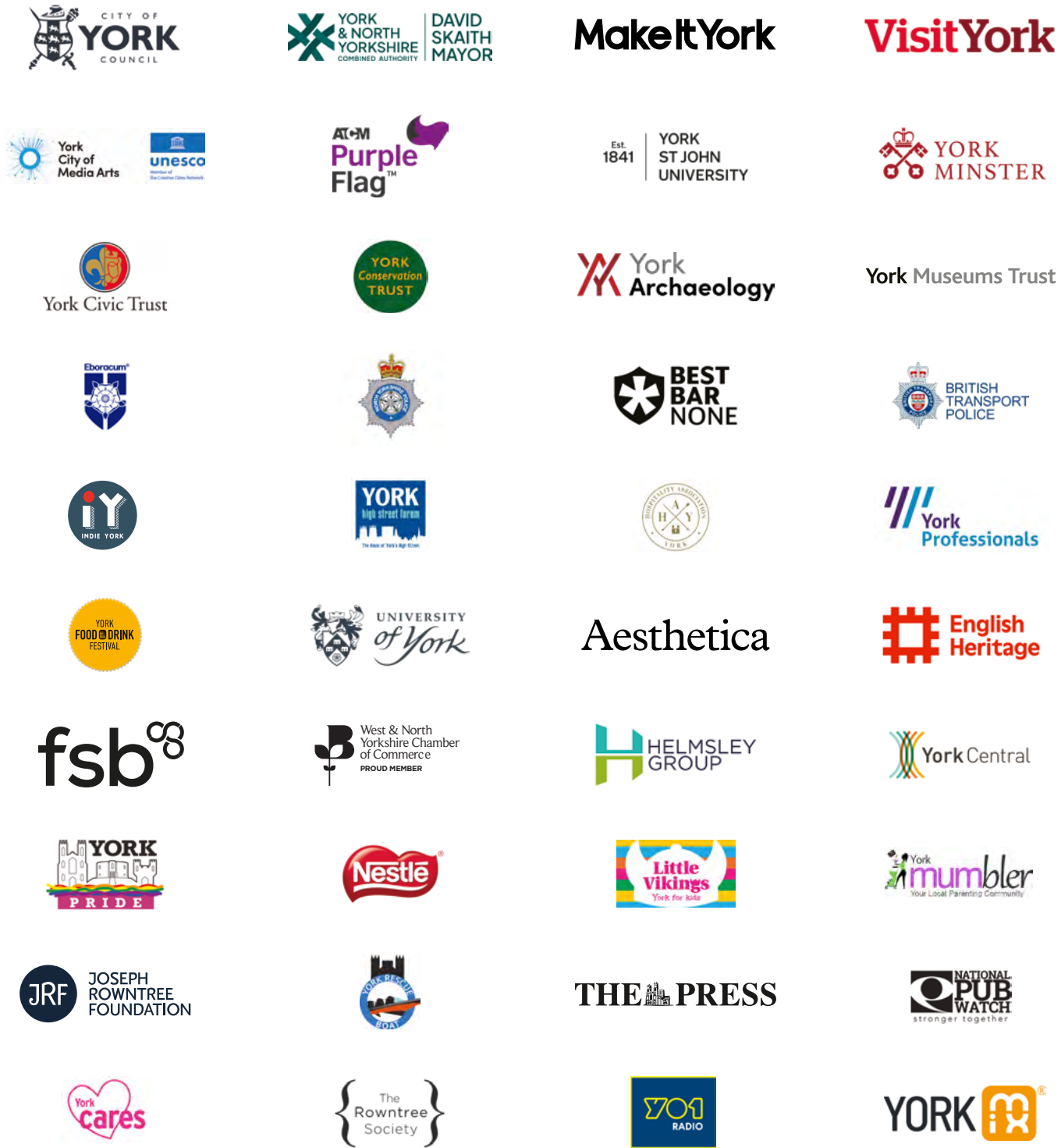
- The financial review reflects continued strong performance during 2025/26, with 96% of total levy income successfully collected.
- During the year, over £354,000 of additional income was secured from external sources, representing 33% of total annual income.
- Management and overhead costs—including staffing, office expenses, accountancy, and related operational costs—accounted for 14% of total annual expenditure.
- The BID has maintained a healthy cash flow position throughout the year, with a sufficient surplus carried forward into Year 11.
- The surplus carried forward includes funds transferred to the BID from the City of York Council following the handover of the city’s Apex Radio Scheme. These funds are ring-fenced for safety and crime reduction initiatives and are to be utilised over the five-year term.

All figures are presented exclusive of VAT and are accurate at the time of publication. Full company accounts are prepared by HPH Chartered Accountants and are available at www.theyorkbid.com/downloads/

Partners

We would like to take this opportunity to extend our sincere thanks to the partner organisations who have supported York BID over the last 10 years. Their collaboration has been instrumental in delivering

meaningful improvements across the city centre and in enhancing the value of the BID’s work. Below is a selection of the organisations we have worked alongside to maximise the impact of your investment:



Contact:

Email: info@theyorkbid.com

Phone: 01904 809970

Credits:

Photography by:

Amy D'Agorne Photography

Furmoto Photography

Double Take Projections

Andy Little Film & Chris Little

Studio YCS

Volspire



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