

Draft 1 – 21 June 2022

SWBA BID Achievements 2021 – 2022

The fifth and final year of the BID term has continued to be adversely affected by the impact of the Covid-19 situation. As a consequence, progress on several major projects has been limited although work has continued wherever possible. The key focus of the BID's work during the course of the year has been to ensure that the SWBA estate has continued to be maintained in good order.

In March 2022, a ballot was held by Merton Council to enable all levy paying businesses to decide whether the BID should be renewed for a further 5 year term from 2022-2027. The ballot result was in favour and the second term will therefore commence on 1 July 2022.

Accessible and Coordinated: the BID has been working to represent, advocate and further the interests of the SWBA business community, particularly in relation to transport issues, Council services, accessibility and connectivity:

- SWBA BID is recognised as a formal consultee for local planning, transport and policing matters. We have continued to work with Council officials on a range of issues which has enabled us to lobby on behalf of our businesses, notably on security, road safety, street cleaning and fly tipping;
- we held quarterly online meetings for our members to provide a forum for discussion and to gather views from businesses;
- we have worked closely with Merton Council on various improvements to signage and road markings to address road safety concerns;
- the BID successfully secured a grant of £135,000 from Merton Council's Neighbourhood Fund Scheme for the implementation of a new wayfinding strategy for the area. The aim is to take this forward during Year 1 of the new 5 year BID term.

Enhanced Business Environment: to ensure SWBA's environment is visibly improved, better maintained, cleaner, safer and more attractive.

- the BID's Estate Ranger has liaised closely with Merton Council and TfL to ensure that the BID area has been kept clean and free of litter and that instances of fly tipping, overgrown vegetation and damage to infrastructure have been dealt with promptly;
- we successfully lobbied Merton Council for the removal of the numerous advertising signs located on the embankment owned by the Council on Lombard Road adjacent to Morden Road.

Cost Saving, Combined Purchasing and Business Promotion: to reduce operating costs, increase trade and increase staff retention through facilitated bulk purchasing, inter-business trading, staff discounts and joint training.

- all BID levy paying businesses have continued to receive free membership of Merton Chamber of Commerce. In particular, this enabled businesses to access advice direct from Merton Council and other agencies about financial and other assistance available in response to the Covid crisis;
- the SWBA website has been rebuilt to implement a number of system and other necessary upgrades.

2021-2022 Expenditure

In the light of the continuing impact of the Covid situation on many SWBA businesses, the BID Board of Directors decided for a second year to waive the annual BID levy for the year 2021-2022. The BID continued to operate during this period using its existing reserves.

Total expenditure in 2021-2022 was [£] with funds unspent being carried forward to the second BID term due to commence on 1 July 2022.

The BID remains fully committed to ensuring that the levy received will be utilised in line with its stated objectives and that any surplus funds will be apportioned accordingly.

The split of actual expenditure in 2021-2022 was as follows:

Accessible and Coordinated	£5202.85
Enhanced Business Environment	£17988.19
Cost Saving, Combined Purchasing and Promotion	£14874.45
Admin and Levy Collection	£1319.12
Overheads	£6995.69
Contingency	£0