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## Renewal of Dublin City Centre Business Improvement Districts (BID) Scheme under L. G. (Business Improvement Districts) Act 2006

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On the 15<sup>th</sup> October 2021, Dublin City Centre BID Company (T/A DublinTown), submitted a proposal to Dublin City Council to renew the current BID Scheme which is in force until 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2022. The proposal was entitled - "Vibrant, Vital and Sustainable: Regenerating Dublin City Centre's Commercial Core for the 2020's and Beyond"

The area of the Business Improvement District is delineated in the Map on Appendices 2 (MAP 15930) and the streets as listed in Appendix 1 as required in section 129B (1) (a) of the above Act. Baseline services provided by Dublin City Council in the BID area were outlined in the proposal as services provided by a BID company must be in addition to, and not instead of, any project, service, or work carried out by the Local Authority (subsection 2).

As required by the above legislation and as advised to the November City Council meeting, (Report 306/2021), the DublinTown proposal was put on public display from the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021 to 20<sup>th</sup> December 2021 in the Civic Offices and in the Central Library, ILAC Centre and was also available online at [www.wearedublincity.ie](http://www.wearedublincity.ie) and [www.dublincity.ie](http://www.dublincity.ie). A public notice placed in the Irish Independent of the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021 inviting submissions on the proposal.

As advised to the January 2022 City Council Meeting (Report 06/2022), one submission was received by the deadline. The report was noted by the City Council.

DublinTown informed the Council in writing on the 19<sup>th</sup> of February that they had considered the submission received and requested that a Plebiscite be arranged to determine the level of support among ratepayers in the BID area for the renewal proposal. I was appointed Returning Officer on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March by Order of the Chief Executive (OCE10/2022)

The closing date for the Plebiscite was 19<sup>th</sup> of April and ballot papers were issued to the eligible Ratepayers on the 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022. The ballot papers were posted in the presence of the Lord Mayor, Cllr. Alison Gilliland in accordance with **SI 166/2007 Local Government (Business Improvement Districts Ratepayer Plebiscite)**. Councillor Dermot Lacey was present at the opening of the ballot boxes and the commencement of the count on the 20<sup>th</sup> April 2022 in City Hall.

The majority of votes cast were in favour of the renewal of the BID.  
The result of the Plebiscite was as follows:

	Ballot Papers Issued	Ballots Cast	Invalid votes	Valid Poll	Votes in favour of BID Proposal	Votes Against the BID proposal
<b>2022</b>	<b>2929</b>	<b>1242- (42%)</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>1209</b>	<b>733 – (61 %)</b>	<b>476 – (39%)</b>
2017	3001	1583 - (53%)	25	1558	843 - (54.1%)	715 - (45.9%)
* 2012	3571	1607 - (45%)	33	1574	1063 - (67.5%)	511 - (32.5%)
*2007	3700	1001 (27%)	16	985	761 (77.3%)	224 - (22.7%)

\* I include figures from the previous plebiscites for comparison purposes.

These results were advertised as required in **the Irish Independent** of the 22<sup>nd</sup> April and on the Dublin City Council Website

In accordance with Section 129B of the Local Government (Business Improvement Districts) Act 2006, it is provided that a rating authority for an administrative area may by resolution:-

- a) Specify an area within the administrative area and establish that area as an Business Improvement District, and
- b) Approve implementation of a scheme (“BIDs Scheme”) to carry out or provide one or more projects, services or works described in subsection (2) and which scheme is financed in whole or in part by BID contribution levies under this part.

Subsection 2 provides that the projects, services and works referred to, shall in the rating authority’s opinion be:-

- a) for the benefit of the business improvements district and those who live, work or carry on an activity in it and
- b) in addition to and not instead of any project, service or work carried out or provided by the Rating Authority immediately before approval of the Scheme.

Section 129 C (7) provides for a renewal of an existing BID scheme for a further period, not exceeding 5 years. It is recommended that, if approved, the BIDs scheme will operate from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 for a further period of five years.

The adoption of a Business Improvement District Scheme is a reserved function. It is a matter for the City Council, having considered this and previous reports and the outcome of the Plebiscite, to approve/not approve the renewal of the Dublin City Centre BID Scheme. If the resolution is to be passed, by law at least one-third of the total Members of the Council are required to vote in favour of the proposed resolution.

If the Members wish to approve the renewal of the Dublin City Centre Bid Scheme, the resolution to be adopted is as follows:

*“That Dublin City Council, having regard to the result of the Plebiscite, the submissions made during the consultation process and judging the scheme to be for the benefit of those who live, work and carry on activity in the BIDs area, hereby approves*

- *the renewal of the Dublin City Centre Business Improvement Districts Scheme T/A Dublin Town*
- *the continued implementation of the BID Scheme*
- *the re-specification of the area of the Business Improvement District as that included in the Dublin Town proposal and delineated as Maps Map No 15930, dated 15<sup>th</sup> February 2008,*
- *the operation of the renewed BID scheme for a period of five years from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023*
- *the financing, in whole or in part, of the BID by the specified contribution levies”.*

**Ruth Dowling**  
**A/Senior Executive Officer**

**Date 26<sup>th</sup> April 2022**