

press release



Falkirk Council

30 May 2011

Falkirk Business Improvement District wins second term

The first of Scotland's original pathfinder BIDs to go to renewal ballot has successfully won a second term.

Local businesses in Falkirk town centre have voted overwhelmingly in support of continuing the BID with all the additional projects, services and funding that it brings to the town centre.

Unusually the Falkirk BID had a first term lasting only three years instead of the more usual five years.

There are 540 businesses within the Falkirk BID. The BID incorporates the core retail area of the town, including both shopping centres, the bus station and the old Tesco site.

The Falkirk BID's new business plan was developed in consultation with businesses and customers. The BID plans to continue to deliver many highly successful projects such as taxi marshals, street ambassadors, seasonal clean-ups, a crime reduction partnership, the Child Safe Scheme and popular on-street events. There are also plans to introduce a raft of new initiatives including a property enhancement scheme, on-street recycling, a locate in Falkirk initiative, a shop local campaign, joint procurement of commercial waste and purchase of utilities for member businesses and creating a long-term plan for the future of the town centre.

Corrie Cuthbertson, Chair of the Falkirk BID added: "I would like to thank the businesses in Falkirk town centre who voted for the continuation of the BID and to reassure those that chose not to vote in favour of the BID that we will do our utmost to deliver projects and services over the coming five years that will benefit the whole of the town centre.

The successful BID ballot result would not have been possible without town centre businesses believing in the BID process and their desire to work closely together along with our Public Sector partners to help make Falkirk town centre a cleaner, safer and friendlier environment."

The BID will have a term of five years and will raise an estimated total levy income of £1,077,000 towards targeted projects and services to improve the town centre. This does not reflect any additional income or sponsorship that the BID will source from other funding bodies. As an indication, during the last three years, the BID has managed to source funding and in kind support in excess of £180 000 over and above the levy income and Falkirk Council core contributions.

A new company will be created to drive forward the BID process in Falkirk, and nominations will be sought from levy paying businesses for positions on the board. In the interim period, the existing management group have agreed to continue to manage the process of delivering the BID.

All businesses located within the BID area will be required to pay a small levy calculated as 1% of the properties rateable value. Falkirk Council will issue all businesses in the BID area of the town centre with a levy invoice in due course.

Voting took place in April and throughout May with the ballot closing on Thursday 26th May.

A total of 41% of eligible businesses voted representing 41.5% of the rateable value and easily satisfying the turnout threshold of 25%. 60.5% of businesses voted in favour of the BID which represented 56% of the rateable value, a resounding mandate for the BID.

Ian Davison Porter, Project Director, Business Improvement Districts Scotland concluded:

"This is the first of the original BIDs to seek re election and the businesses of Falkirk town centre have obviously recognised the value of the Falkirk BID by returning an overwhelming yes vote. The coming years will be very exciting in Falkirk with the new BID delivering more and better projects and services for its businesses."

For further information on Business Improvement Districts Scotland please visit bids-scotland.com

- Falkirk Council (30/05/2011)