

**DATED**

**2025**

**THE LORD MAYOR AND CITIZENS OF THE CITY OF WESTMINSTER**

**AND**

**HEART OF LONDON BUSINESS ALLIANCE (HOLBA)**

**(Operating as St Martin's Business Improvement District 2025 to 2030)**

**(Ratepayer)**

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# **OPERATING AGREEMENT**

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**BETWEEN**

1. **THE LORD MAYOR AND CITIZENS OF THE CITY OF WESTMINSTER**, City Hall, 64 Victoria Street, London, SW1E 6QP (the "Council"); and
2. **HEART OF LONDON BUSINESS ALLIANCE (the "BID Company")** registered as a company limited by guarantee in England with number 04293930 whose registered office is at 80-81 St Martin's Lane LONDON WC2N 4AA.

**RECITALS**

- A The Council is the billing authority for the purposes of the Local Government Act 2003 and the Business Improvement Districts (England) Regulations 2004 and is responsible for collecting the BID Levy and administering the BID Revenue Account, which shall be used towards the operation of the BID within the area of the Council and the funding of the BID Arrangements.
- B The BID Company is responsible for the operation of the BID and for using the BID Levy for the purposes of achieving the BID Arrangements.
- C Both parties wish to confirm the arrangements by which the BID Levy shall be collected together with general arrangements as to the relationship to be established between the Council and the BID Company for the duration of the BID.
- D The purpose of this Agreement is to:
- establish the procedure for setting the BID Levy;
  - confirm the basis upon which the Council will be responsible for collecting the BID Levy;
  - set out the enforcement mechanisms available for collection of the BID Levy;
  - set out the procedures for accounting and transference of the BID Levy;
  - provide for the monitoring and review of the collection of the BID Levy; and
  - confirm the manner in which the Council's expenses incurred in collecting the BID Levy shall be paid.

IT IS AGREED as follows:

## 1 DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

- “Administrative Expenses”** - means costs incurred by the Council in the administration, collection and recovery of the BID Levy other than the Software Charges, Support and Maintenance Charges.
- “Annual Report”** - means a report prepared by the Council which details:
- (i) the amount of the BID Levy collected during the relevant Financial Year;
  - (ii) the success rate for the collection of the BID Levy;
  - (iii) the Council's proposals (if any) to help improve its efficiency in the collection and enforcement of the BID Levy;
  - (iv) those BID Levy Payers who have paid the BID Levy and those who have not paid the BID Levy;
  - (v) the Council's proposals for Bad or Doubtful debts.
  - (vi) The Council's proposal(s) for dealing with credit balances for a BID Levy Payer accounts
- “Appeal Notice”** - means a notice served by the BID Company in accordance with Clause 9.2.
- “Bad or Doubtful Debts”** - has the meaning given in the Regulations.
- “Ballot”** - means a ballot, renewal ballot, alteration ballot or re-ballot as appropriate held in respect of the Proposals in accordance with the Regulations.
- “Ballot Result Date”** - means the date upon which a successful ballot result has been declared in favour of putting in place or renewing the BID Arrangements.

<b>“BID”</b>	- has the meaning given in the Regulations, that is the Business Improvement District and is the geographical area within which the BID Arrangements operates as shown on the plan attached to this Agreement in Schedule 1.
<b>“BID Arrangements”</b>	- has the meaning given by section 41 of the Local Government Act 2003.
<b>“BID Company Report”</b>	- means a report prepared by the BID Company for each Financial Year which details: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) total income and expenditure arising from the BID Levy;</li> <li>(b) other income and expenditure of the BID Company;</li> <li>(c) a statement of actual and pending deficits; and</li> <li>(d) the various initiatives and schemes upon which the BID Levy has been expended by the BID Company.</li> </ul>
<b>“BID Levy”</b>	- means the charge payable by the BID Levy Payer levied and collected by the Council during the Chargeable Period for the BID Term pursuant to the Regulations and this Agreement.
<b>“BID Levy Payer”</b>	- means an eligible non-domestic rate payer for a Hereditament(s) within the BID area in respect of the BID Arrangement.
<b>“BID Levy Rules”</b>	- means the rules for the BID Levy set out in Schedule 2.

**“BID Multiplier”**

- shall be 1.35% for Chargeable Period 1.4.2025 to 31.3.2026
- and increasing by 0.03% for each Chargeable Period from 1.4.2027 and annually thereafter as follows:-

Chargeable Period	BID Multiplier
2026/27	1.38%
2027/28	1.41%
2028/29	1.45%
2029/30	1.48%

**“BID Revenue Account”**

- means the account kept in accordance with Regulation 14 of the Regulations.

**“BID Term”**

- means 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2030 or the date of earlier termination of this Agreement under Clause 3.1

**“Change in Law”**

- means an amendment or re-enactment of any Legislation or the coming into effect of any new Legislation, or any applicable judgment of a relevant court of law which changes a binding precedent.

**“Chargeable Period”**

- means the following periods:
- 1.4.2025 to 31.3.2026
- 1.4.2026 to 31.3.2027
- 1.4.2027 to 31.3.2028
- 1.4.2028 to 31.3.2029
- 1.4.2029 to 31.3.2030

**“Committal”**

- means an order made by a Magistrates' Court for a BID Levy

Payer to be committed to prison for failure to pay the BID Levy.

**“Contingency”**

- means:
  - (a) 1% of the BID Levy collected from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2029; and
  - (b) 5% of the BID Levy collected from 1 April 2029 to 31 March 2030

**“Contributors”**

- means the BID Levy Payers and payers of Voluntary Contributions.

**“Demand Notice”**

- has the meaning given in the Regulations.

**“Effective Date”**

- has the meaning given in regulation 16 of the Non-Domestic Rating (Alteration of Lists and Appeals) (England) Regulations 2009

**“Enforcement Agent”**

- means an enforcement agent employed by the Council or on behalf of the Council through a contractor.

**“Enforcement Notice”**

- means a notice served on the Council in accordance with Clause 9.1.

**“Entitled To Possession”**

- has the meaning given to it in Part 3, section 65 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.

**“External Auditor’s Costs”**

- means the sum charged by the Council’s external auditor in carrying out an audit of the BID Revenue Account

**“Financial Year”**

- means the financial year for the BID Company which runs from 1 April to 31 March.

**“Hereditament”**

- has the meaning given in the Regulations.

<b>“Index”</b>	- means the Consumer Prices Index compiled by the Office for National Statistics (or any body upon which duties in connection with the compilation and maintenance of such index may have devolved).
<b>“Legislation”</b>	- means all relevant Acts of Parliament and statutory regulations, instruments and/or orders, guidance, codes of practice, byelaws and directives.
<b>“Liability Order”</b>	- has the meaning given in the Regulations.
<b>“Listed Building”</b>	- means a Hereditament included on the Statutory List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest, available at:  <a href="https://www.westminster.gov.uk/planning-building-and-environmental-regulations/design-and-heritage-planning/listed-buildings">https://www.westminster.gov.uk/planning-building-and-environmental-regulations/design-and-heritage-planning/listed-buildings</a>
<b>“Monitoring Group”</b>	- means the group whose members consist of representatives from the Council and the BID Company that monitors the BID Arrangements.
<b>"NDR"</b>	- means the local Non-Domestic Rates under the Local Government Finance Act 1988.
<b>“NDR Discretionary Relief”</b>	- means relief which a local authority has a discretion to grant under section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.
<b>“NDR Hardship Relief”</b>	- means relief which a local authority has a discretion to grant under section 49 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.
<b>“NDR Mandatory Relief”</b>	- means relief which a local authority must grant under section 43 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.
<b>“NDR Payer”</b>	- means the person or organisation who has a liability to pay the NDR.



<b>“NDR Regulations”</b>	- means the regulations made pursuant to Part 3 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.
<b>“NDR (Section 44A) (Partly Occupied) Relief”</b>	means a NDR allowance under section 44A of the Local Government Finance Act 1988
<b>“NDR Small Business Rate Relief”</b>	- means a NDR allowance under section 61 of the Local Government Act 2003
<b>“NDR Transitional Phasing”</b>	- means the transitional arrangements under section 57 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 and the Local Government Act 2003.
<b>“Occupier”</b>	- has the meaning given to it by section 65 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.
<b>“Primary Description Code”</b>	- means the primary description code used by the VOA in order to distinguish between Hereditament types on the Rating List.
<b>“Proposals”</b>	- means the proposals voted for by the BID Levy Payers in a Ballot which sets out the objectives of the BID and identifies the various projects which will be undertaken using funds raised by the BID Levy and/or Voluntary Contributions to achieve those objectives and “Renewal Proposals” has the same meaning save that “Ballot” is replaced by “renewal ballot” and “Alteration Proposals” has the same meaning save that “Ballot” shall be replaced with “alteration ballot”.
<b>“Rateable Value”</b>	- means the Rateable Value of a Hereditament in accordance with Section 42(4) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.
<b>Rating List”</b>	- means the list maintained under section 41 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.

<b>“Regulations”</b>	- means the Business Improvement Districts (England) Regulations 2004 and such amendments to those regulations which may be made by the Secretary of State pursuant to section 48 of the Local Government Act 2003 (from time to time).
<b>“Reminder Notice”</b>	- has the meaning given to it in paragraph 8.2.1 of Schedule 2 .
<b>“Repayment Sum”</b>	- has the meaning given to it in Clause 5.6.
<b>“Single Instalment Due Date”</b>	- means the date by which the BID Levy as set out in the Demand Notice must be paid.
<b>“Software Charges”</b>	- means any charges levied by Capita Business Services Ltd trading as Capita Software Services (or their successors in title) on the Council in respect of the BID Levy.
<b>“Sum Unpaid”</b>	- means the amount of the BID Levy which is unpaid after the Single Instalment Due Date.
<b>“Support and Maintenance Charges”</b>	- means annual charges levied by Capita Business Services Ltd. (or their successors in title) in relation to the Academy BID software module or its successor or replacement and enhancements relating to BID Levy.
<b>“Unoccupied”</b>	- has the meaning given to it by section 65 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.

**“Valuation Office Agency” or “VOA”** means the executive agency, sponsored by HM Revenue & Customs, that gives the government the valuations and property advice needed to support taxation and benefits and maintains the Rating List, or any successor body in which such responsibilities are vested.

**“Valuation Officer”** means the person appointed by the Commissioners of the HM Revenue & Customs to compile and maintain the Valuation List.

**“Voluntary Contributions”** - means any contributions or funds paid or made available to the BID Company which do not form part of the BID Levy.

**“Winding Up”** - means an order pursuant to section 125 of the Insolvency Act 1986.

**“Write Backs”** - means the removal of a credit balance from a BID Revenue Account by the Council in accordance with its audit guidelines and internal procedures

**“Write-Off”** - means a decision by the BID Company that an unpaid BID Levy will not be recovered.

1.1 Clause, schedule and paragraph headings shall not affect the interpretation of this agreement.

1.2 A **person** includes a natural person, corporate or unincorporated body (whether or not having separate legal personality) and that person's legal and personal representatives, successors and permitted assigns.

1.3 The schedules form part of this agreement and shall have effect as if set out in full in the body of this agreement and any reference to this agreement includes the schedules.

1.4 A reference to a **company** shall include any company, corporation or other body corporate, wherever and however incorporated or established.

- 1.5 Words in the singular shall include the plural and vice versa.
- 1.6 A reference to a statute or statutory provision is a reference to it as it is in force for the time being, taking account of any amendment, extension, or re-enactment and includes any subordinate legislation for the time being in force made under it.
- 1.7 A reference to **writing** or **written** includes email but not faxes.
- 1.8 Any obligation in this agreement on a person not to do something includes an obligation not to agree or allow that thing to be done.
- 1.9 A reference to a document is a reference to that document as varied or novated (in each case, other than in breach of the provisions of this agreement) at any time.
- 1.10 References to Clauses and Schedules are to the clauses and schedules of this agreement; references to paragraphs are to paragraphs of the relevant Schedule.
- 1.11 Where there is any conflict or inconsistency between the provisions of the agreement, such conflict or inconsistency shall be resolved according to the following order of priority:
  - 1.11.1 the Clauses of the agreement; and
  - 1.11.2 the Schedules to this agreement.

## **2 STATUTORY AUTHORITIES**

- 2.1 This Agreement is made pursuant to Part 4 of the Local Government Act 2003 and section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 and all other enabling powers.

## **3 COMMENCEMENT**

- 3.1 This Agreement shall not take effect until the Ballot Result Date and in any event shall determine and cease to be of any further effect in the event that:
  - 3.1.1 the BID Company fails to secure approval of the Proposals, Renewal Proposals or Alteration Proposals in a Ballot;
  - 3.1.2 the Secretary of State declares void the Ballot; under regulations 9 of the Regulations;
  - 3.1.3 the Council exercises its veto under regulation 12 of the Regulations in respect of the Proposals and there is no successful appeal against the veto; under regulation 13 of the Regulations;
  - 3.1.4 the BID Term expires, save where the BID Company secures approval of Renewal Proposals or Alteration Proposals in a Ballot in which event this Agreement shall continue until the expiry of the BID term set out in such Renewal Proposals or

Alteration Proposals, and the Council consents to the continuation of this Agreement; or

- 3.1.5 the Council exercises its discretion to terminate the BID Arrangements in exercise of powers under regulation 18 of the Regulations.
- 3.2 The expiry or termination of this Agreement shall be without prejudice to the Council's powers and obligations under the Regulations in connection with the administration, collection and recovery of the BID Levy payable in respect of a period prior to the expiry or termination of this Agreement, refunds to BID Levy Payers and the keeping and administration of the BID Revenue Account.

#### **4 SETTING THE BID LEVY**

- 4.1 As soon as is reasonably practicable following the Ballot Result Date the Council shall:
  - 4.1.1 calculate the BID Levy for each BID Levy Payer in accordance with the BID Levy Rules; and
  - 4.1.2 confirm in writing to the BID Company the BID Levy payable by each BID Levy Payer.
  - 4.1.3 The decision on liability for the BID Levy will at all times be administered by the Council in accordance with the Regulations.

#### **5 THE BID REVENUE ACCOUNT**

- 5.1 As soon as is reasonably practicable following the Ballot Result Date the Council shall keep a BID Revenue Account within the Council's general fund and provide written confirmation to the BID Company of the same.
- 5.2 As soon as reasonably practicable following the Ballot Result Date the BID Company shall provide the Council with details of its bank account into which the BID Levy shall be transferred from the BID Revenue Account and any other details which the Council may reasonably require.
- 5.3 The Council shall pay to the BID Company, upon the expiry of the first month following the commencement of the BID Term and every month thereafter, the BID Levy collected in that month less the Contingency.
- 5.4 The Council and the BID Company shall review the Contingency every three months (for the duration of the BID Term) and the Council shall take reasonable account of any representations made by the BID Company. At the conclusion of such review, the Contingency percentages shall be the same unless the Council decides to change them.
- 5.5 Unless otherwise agreed, the Council shall pay to the BID Company the amount of the Contingency the Council has retained as at 31 March of each Financial Year on

31<sup>st</sup> May following. In the event of the expiry of the BID Term without the BID Arrangements being renewed or the BID Arrangements are terminated prior to the date on which the BID Arrangements fall to be renewed, then the Council shall pay to the BID Company any Contingency (including interest, which has accrued, if any) having retained for an amount equal to the BID Revenue Account Credit Balances on 30 November 2030.

5.6 In the event that a BID Levy Payer is entitled to repayment of a BID Levy (the "Repayment Sum") pursuant to regulation 15 and paragraph 8(4) of schedule 4 of the Regulations and in the event that the Council has previously paid all or part of the Repayment Sum to the BID Company, the Council shall request all or part, as the case may be, of the Repayment Sum from the BID Company and the BID Company shall pay the sum so requested to the Council forthwith and the Council shall thereafter repay the Repayment Sum to the BID Levy Payer. In the event of the termination of the BID Company or the receipt of notice by the Council under Clause 5.7 the BID Company shall forthwith pay to the Council the Council's estimate as notified to the BID Company of the total of possible Repayment Sums.

5.7 The BID Company shall provide the Council with a minimum of one month's prior written notice of any proposed resolution for winding up of the BID Company or proposed entry into any composition or arrangement for the benefit of the BID Company's creditors or proposed cessation of the BID Company's business or proposed administration order and shall forthwith notify the Council of the appointment of any administrator, administrative receiver or receiver over all or any of the BID Company's assets.

5.8 The BID Company shall issue to the Council a VAT invoice for the payment of the BID Levy income upon advice from the Council on the amount due.

## **6 ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES AND DISTRICT AUDITOR'S COSTS**

6.1 The Council shall provide the BID Company with one or more invoices for payment of Administrative Expenses and for External Auditor's Cost for each Financial Year.

6.2 The Administrative Expenses for 2025/26 will be £9,455.90 plus VAT. The Administrative Charges for each subsequent Financial Year shall be the amount of the Administrative Expenses in the immediately preceding Financial Year (excluding VAT) plus a further amount equal to the product of the amount (excluding VAT) of the invoices provided by the Council in the immediately preceding year and the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the month of March immediately preceding the 1 April in the year for which the invoices are being issued by the Council in relation to the period of twelve (12) months ending in that month of March. In the event of a negative figure, no adjustment will be made to the Administrative Expenses for that year.

- 6.3 The Council shall invoice the BID Company in May for fifty percent (50%) and October for fifty percent (50%) of the Administrative Expenses each Chargeable Period for payment of the Support and Maintenance Charges for each Financial Year.
- 6.4 The Council will manage the BID Levy at no cost to the BID Company other than the Administrative Expenses, the Software Charges and External Auditor's Cost. In the event, however, that the Council reasonably believes that management of the BID Levy requires the Council to provide more staff time than anticipated by the Council at the commencement of this Agreement, the Council may serve on the BID Company a notice of the same. Such notice will set out the amount of staff time anticipated by the Council at the commencement of this Agreement broken down by grade and type of staff, the cost of that additional staff time also broken down by grade and type of staff and the reasons for additional staff time being required, again broken down by grade and staff type. If the BID Company disputes the need for or the amount of the additional staff time or considers that the cost of the additional staff time could be reduced by use of different members of the Council's staff, it shall give notice including full details of the matters in dispute to the Council forthwith then the matter shall be determined in accordance with Clause 17 (Arbitration) below. If after 28 days from the date of the notice or determination of the dispute, whichever is the later, the amount of staff time has not reduced to the levels anticipated by the Council at the commencement of this Agreement the BID Company shall pay the Council's costs of providing more staff time as set out in the notice from the Council or as determined under Clause 17 below.
- 6.5 In the event that the District Auditor makes a charge to the Council for payment of his costs arising from the District Auditor carrying out an annual audit of the BID Revenue Account, the BID Company shall pay such costs.
- 6.6 In the event that the number of Hereditaments within BIDs operating in the area for which the Council is the billing authority exceeds the threshold covered by the current software licence and by reason thereof the Council is required to pay Software Charges, the BID Company shall pay such Software Charges to the Council or an appropriate proportion of them as the Council sees fit.
- 6.7 The BID Company shall pay any invoices it receives from the Council within 28 days from the date of receipt.
- 6.8 In the event that the BID Company fails to pay any invoice within 28 days the Council shall be entitled to debit an amount equal to such invoice from the BID Revenue Account and credit that amount in an account in the name of the Council.
- 6.9 If at any time after the Ballot Result Date there is a Change in Law which increases the Administrative Expenses incurred by the Council, the Council shall be entitled to include such increase in its invoices for payment provided to the BID Company.

## **7 COLLECTING THE BID LEVY**

- 7.1 As soon as reasonably practicable following the Ballot Result Date the Council shall confirm in writing to the BID Company the anticipated date of the dispatch of Demand Notices for the initial Chargeable Period and the anticipated Single Instalment Due Date.
- 7.2 Pursuant to Clause 7.1 the Council shall serve a Demand Notice on each BID Levy Payer and thereafter shall continue to calculate the BID Levy and serve Demand Notices throughout the BID Term.
- 7.3 The Council shall maintain a list of those BID Levy Payers who have paid the BID Levy and those who have not paid the BID Levy and shall make this list available to the BID Company no later than ten (10) working days after the last date of each month.
- 7.4 The Council shall serve a Demand Notice or amended Demand Notice on a BID Levy Payer as soon as reasonably practicable after the Council receives notice of a change that affects liability for the BID Levy.
- 7.5 The Council shall use all reasonable endeavours to collect the BID Levy throughout the BID Term.

## **8 PROCEDURES AVAILABLE TO THE COUNCIL FOR ENFORCING PAYMENT OF THE BID LEVY**

- 8.1 Procedures for the enforcement and recovery of the BID Levy are set out in the Regulations under regulation 15 and Schedule 4 and the Council shall comply with those enforcement and recovery procedures (where appropriate) in enforcing payment of the BID Levy against BID Levy Payers.

## **9 ENFORCEMENT MECHANISMS IF THE COUNCIL FAILS TO ENFORCE COLLECTION OF THE BID LEVY**

- 9.1 In the event that the Council fails to enforce payment of the BID Levy pursuant to Clause 8 the BID Company shall be entitled to serve an Enforcement Notice on the Council requesting that:
  - 9.1.1 the Council serve a Reminder Notice or
  - 9.1.2 in the event that the Council has already served a Reminder Notice that the Council applies for a Liability Order and the Council shall provide written confirmation of the action it shall take to comply with the Enforcement Notice.
- 9.2 If the Council fails to provide written confirmation of the action it is taking in relation to the Enforcement Notice within 21 days of the issue of the Enforcement Notice the BID Company



shall be entitled to serve an Appeal Notice on the Director of Finance of the Council and such notice shall:

- 9.2.1 detail the Sum Unpaid;
- 9.2.2 confirm that the Council has failed to use the enforcement mechanisms available to it under this Agreement to recover the Sum Unpaid; and
- 9.2.3 include written notice requesting that a meeting of the Monitoring Group take place in order to achieve a solution and/or agree a strategy to recover the Sum Unpaid, such meeting to take place no later than 28 days from the date of the Appeal Notice.

## **10 ACCOUNTING PROCEDURES AND MONITORING**

- 10.1 Within one (1) month from the commencement of the BID Term the parties shall set up the Monitoring Group.
- 10.2 Upon the expiry of the first month from the commencement of the BID Term and every month thereafter (for the duration of BID Term) the Council shall provide the BID Company with:
  - 10.2.1 the amount of the BID Levy for each BID Levy Payer;
  - 10.2.2 the amount of the BID Levy collected for each BID Levy Payer;
  - 10.2.3 details of BID Levy Payers who have not paid the BID Levy;
  - 10.2.4 details of Reminder Notices issued;
  - 10.2.5 details of Liability Orders made or applied for; and
  - 10.2.6 details of agreements made, if any, between the Council and BID Levy Payers where it has been agreed that payment of a Demand Notice can be made over a period of six months or more from the date of such Demand Notice.
  - 10.2.7 The Council will undertake a due diligence process to reduce the credit balances on the BID Revenue Account at least once per Chargeable Period. The process may involve reminders to generate refund claims and transferring BID Levy overpayments from the BID Revenue Accounts to offset against NDR debt or other BID or rate liabilities within audit guidelines and potentially credit Write Backs.
- 10.3 Upon the expiry of each Chargeable Period the BID Company shall provide the Council in respect of the Chargeable Period with:
  - 10.3.1 the amount of BID Levy received from the Council by the BID Company;
  - 10.3.2 the amount received by the BID Company from Contributors excluding BID Levy Payers; and
  - 10.3.3 the total expenditure of the BID Company.

- 10.4 Within one month from the commencement of the BID Term the parties shall agree the dates when there will be meetings of the Monitoring Group and there will be at least two such meetings in each Financial Year (throughout the duration of the BID Term) and on all other occasions further meetings of the Monitoring Group shall be arranged by the service of written notice by either party on the other such notice to be provided no less than 28 days prior to the date of the proposed meeting (or less if otherwise agreed or in cases of emergency) and provided further that such meetings can be dispensed with altogether upon the written agreement of both the Council and the BID Company.
- 10.5 At each meeting the Monitoring Group shall:
- 10.5.1 review the effectiveness of the collection and enforcement of the BID Levy; and
  - 10.5.2 if required by either party review and assess information provided by the parties pursuant to Clauses 10.2 and 10.3 above and make recommendations provided they are permitted by the Regulations and the terms of this Agreement.
- 10.6 Within two (2) months after the end of each Financial Year (for the duration of the Bid Term) the Council shall provide an Annual Report to the BID Company to be issued on or around 31 March.
- 10.7 Within one (1) month from the date of receipt of the Annual Report in each financial year (for the duration of the Bid Term) the BID Company shall provide a BID Company Report to the Council.

## **11 ALTERATION OF BID ARRANGEMENTS**

- 11.1 The BID Company may not alter the BID Arrangements without an alteration Ballot, other than to reduce the BID Levy.
- 11.2 Any alterations to the BID Arrangements must not conflict with the Local Government Act 2003 or the Business Improvement District (England) Regulations 2004.
- 11.3 The Council shall ensure the altered BID Arrangements are made by the time those altered BID Arrangements are to come into force and shall send a notice in writing explaining the reason for and the effect of the alteration to each person liable for the BID Levy under the altered BID Arrangements.
- 11.4 The Council may invoice the BID Company for the Council's costs in implementing any alterations to the BID Arrangements, including without limitation any costs in sending notices in respect of the alterations.

## **12 CONFIDENTIALITY**

- 12.1 Both the Council and the BID Company shall keep confidential and not divulge to any person without the prior written consent of the other party all information (written or oral) concerning the business affairs of the other nor any information which has been exchanged about the BID Levy Payers or Contributors or about other third parties which it shall have obtained or received as a result of operating the BID and this obligation shall survive the termination or lapse of the BID Arrangements.

## **13 NOTICES**

- 13.1 Any notice or other written communication to be served or given to or upon any party to this Agreement to the other shall be in writing and shall be sent to the address provided for above or such substitute address in England as may from time to time have been notified by that party upon 7 days' written notice.
- 13.2 A notice may be served by:
- 13.2.1 delivery to the Council's Chief Executive at the address of the Council specified above;
  - 13.2.2 delivery to the Director, Company Secretary or Chief Executive Officer at the address of the BID Company specified above;
  - 13.2.3 registered or recorded delivery post to such addresses; or
  - 13.2.4 electronic communication (provided that it is in legible form and is capable of being used for subsequent reference) to such addresses.
- 13.3 Any notice served shall be deemed to have been validly served or given at the time when in the ordinary course of business it would have been received.

## **14 MISCELLANEOUS**

- 14.1 For the avoidance of doubt where any part of this Agreement is incompatible with the Regulations or any other regulations which the Secretary of State may issue pursuant to Part 4 of the Local Government Act 2003 then such part shall be struck out and the balance of this Agreement shall remain.
- 14.2 For the avoidance of doubt the provisions of this Agreement (other than those contained in this Clause) shall not have any effect until this document has been dated and executed.
- 14.3 References to the Council include any successors to its functions as local authority.
- 14.4 References to statutes, bye laws, regulations orders or delegated legislation shall include any such instrument re-enacting or made pursuant to the same power.

## **15 EXERCISE OF THE COUNCIL'S POWERS**

- 15.1 Nothing contained in this Agreement or implied in it shall prejudice or affect the rights, discretions, powers, duties and obligations of the Council under all statutes, bye-laws, statutory instruments, orders and regulations in the exercise of its functions as a local authority.
- 15.2 The Council may terminate this Agreement in accordance with the Regulations.

## **16 CONTRACTS (RIGHTS OF THIRD PARTIES)**

- 16.1 The provisions of the Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999 shall not apply to this Agreement.

## **17 ARBITRATION**

- 17.1 The following provisions shall apply in the event of a dispute:
- 17.1.1 any dispute or difference of any kind whatsoever arising between the parties hereto out of or in connection with this Agreement shall be first referred to a meeting between the Council's Director of Finance and the BID Company's Chair who shall enter into good faith negotiations to resolve the dispute or difference;
  - 17.1.2 if such meeting fails to resolve the dispute or difference then the dispute or difference shall be referred to arbitration before a single arbitrator;
  - 17.1.3 the parties shall jointly appoint the arbitrator not later than 28 (twenty eight) days after service of a request in writing by either party to do so and each party shall bear its own costs;
  - 17.1.4 if the parties are unable to agree within 28 (twenty eight) days the appointment of such arbitrator then such arbitrator (hereinafter referred to as "the Tribunal") shall be appointed on the application of either party to the President for the time being of the Law Society.
- 17.2 In the event of a reference to arbitration the parties agree:
- 17.2.1 to prosecute any such reference expeditiously; and
  - 17.2.2 to do all things or take all steps reasonably necessary in order to enable the Tribunal to deliver any award (interim, final or otherwise) as soon as reasonably practicable;
  - 17.2.3 that the award shall be in writing signed by the Tribunal and shall be finalised within 21 (twenty one) days from the date of such award;

17.2.4 the award shall be final and binding both on the parties and on any persons claiming through or under them.

**18 VARIATIONS**

18.1 No Variation to this Agreement shall be effective unless:

- (i) it is recorded in writing and signed by both the Council and the BID Company and
- (ii) the substance of such Variation has first been approved in accordance with any applicable internal processes or policies of each Party.

18.2 Accordingly neither the Council nor the BID Company shall implement a variation other than one which is in accordance with this Clause 18.

This Agreement has been executed as a deed and it delivered and take effect on the date stated at the beginning of it:

**THE COMMON SEAL of THE LORD  
MAYOR ANDCITIZENS OF THE CITY  
OF WESTMINSTER** was hereunto

Affixed by Order



Sealed By: Westminster City Council  
Sealed Time: 17 March 2025 | 13:39 GMT

*Kar Yee Chan*

.....

Executed as a deed by:  
**HEART OF LONDON BUSINESS ALLIANCE**  
**Acting by two directors or a director  
and its secretary**

*Adam Wiles*

.....

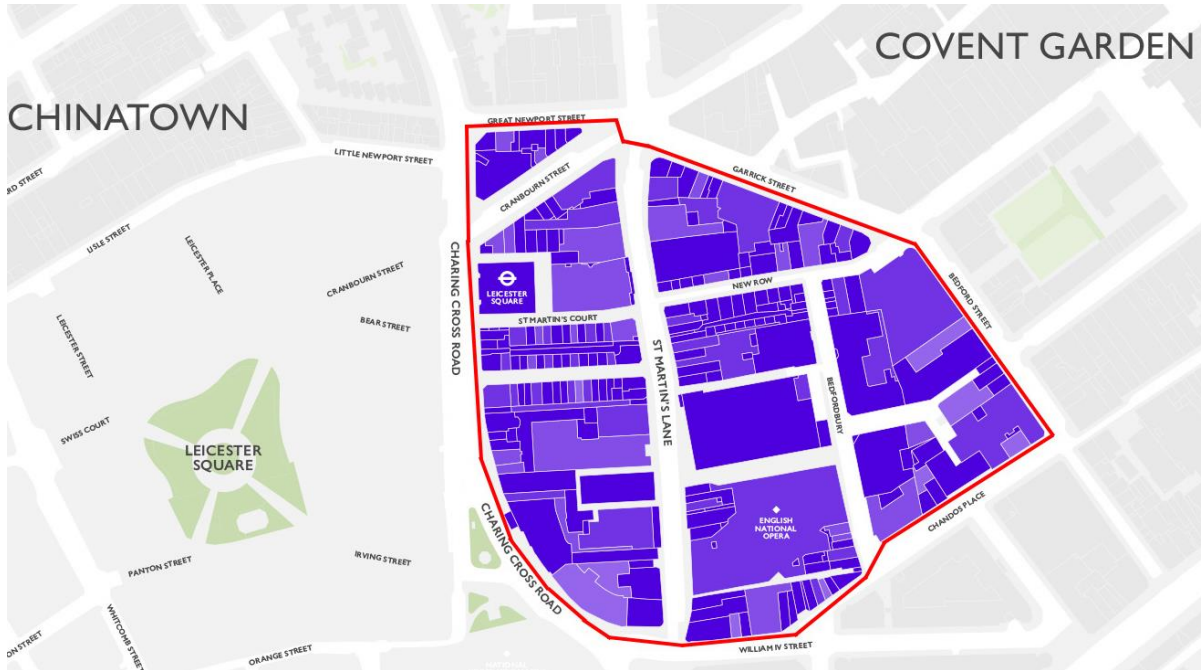
Director

*Jeremy Brown*

.....

Director/Company Secretary

## SCHEDULE 1 BID AREA PLAN



The following streets are included in the St Martin's District.

- St Martin's Lane
- St Martin's Place (part street)
- William IV Street (part street)
- Charing Cross Road (part street)
- Garrick Street (part street)
- Bedford Street (part street)
- Cranbourn Street (part street)
- Great Newport Street (part street)
- St Martin's Court
- Bedfordbury
- New Row
- Chandos Place (part street)
- Brydges Place
- Cecil Court

## SCHEDULE 2 BID LEVY RULES AND ENFORCEMENT

### 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The following rules must be read in conjunction with the Regulations. Where the rules conflict with the Regulations the Regulations shall prevail.

### 2 HEREDITAMENTS SUBJECT TO THE BID LEVY

- 2.1 A BID Levy Payer will be subject to the BID Levy in respect of a Hereditament if on a particular day in a Chargeable Period the Hereditament is:
- 2.1.1 in the BID; and
  - 2.1.2 on the Rating List; and
  - 2.1.3 has a Rateable Value of £80,000 or more.

### 3 THE BID LEVY

- 3.1 For the avoidance of doubt, the BID Levy is a daily charge due annually in advance.
- 3.2 The BID Levy will be calculated for a Chargeable Period as follows:

$$\text{BID Rateable Value} \times \text{BID Multiplier} \times (D/Y)$$

where:

- 3.2.1 D is the number of days in such Chargeable Period for which the BID Levy Payer is liable for the BID Levy; and
  - 3.2.2 Y is the number of days in that Chargeable Period e.g. 364 between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2027 and for all other Chargeable Periods except for Chargeable Period 1 April 2027 to 31 March 2028 which is 365 during the BID Term.
  - 3.2.3 BID Rateable Value – is the Rateable Value of the Hereditament is the rateable value of the hereditament in effect at 1 April 2025.
- 3.3 The BID Levy will be rounded to the nearest penny (and note that £0.005 will be rounded up to £0.01).
- 3.4 The BID Levy per Hereditament will be capped at £50,000 for a Chargeable Period.

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<sup>1</sup> If there is no Rateable Value on 31<sup>st</sup> day of March 2025, the BID Rateable Value will be the Rateable Value as at the earliest effective date in the Rating List or subsequent Rating List.

- 3.4.1 The Hereditament Cap will apply individually to each Hereditament;
  - 3.4.2 For the avoidance of doubt, when a new BID Levy Payer becomes liable to pay the BID Levy in respect of a Hereditament part-way through a Chargeable Period, both the previous and the new Levy Payers will pay the BID Levy up to the relevant Hereditament Cap sum within the relevant Chargeable Period.
- 3.5 For the avoidance of doubt the BID Levy will not be subject to VAT.

#### **4 CHANGES IN RATEABLE VALUE**

- 4.1 Where the Council is notified of a change in the Rateable Value of a Hereditament by the VOA by way of a schedule update (an **RV Change**) then the Council will calculate the adjustment to the BID Levy pursuant to the later of the following dates:
- 4.1.1 the Effective Date of such change; or
  - 4.1.2 1 April of the Financial Year in which the relevant schedule update is issued.
- 4.2 Where the Council is notified of a change in the Rateable Value of a Hereditament by the Valuation Officer by way of a schedule update and such change relates to:
- 4.2.1 a new entry in a Rating List (whether as the result of a new Hereditament or the split or merger of previously existing Hereditament(s)); or
  - 4.2.2 a reduction in the Rateable Value to £0 or £1; or
  - 4.2.3 a increase in the Rateable Value
  - 4.2.4 a deletion of the Hereditament from the Rating List,
  - 4.2.5 then the Council will calculate the adjustment to the BID Levy pursuant to the Effective Date of such change.
- 4.3 The Council will only issue refunds of the BID Levy in respect of an RV Change for the Chargeable Period in which the RV Change occurs. There will be no refunds in respect of the previous Chargeable Period except where clause 4.2 applies

#### **5 PERSONS / ORGANISATIONS LIABLE FOR THE BID LEVY**

- 5.1 The BID Levy will be a daily charge.
- 5.2 Liability for the BID Levy will fall on the Occupier of the Hereditament on the relevant day
- 5.3 If a Hereditament is Unoccupied, the liability for the daily BID Levy will fall on the organisation / person Entitled to Possession of the Hereditament on the relevant day.



## **6 BID LEVY ALLOWANCES**

- 6.1 A BID Levy Payer will not receive an allowance towards the BID Levy in relation to an Unoccupied Hereditament.
- 6.2 A BID Levy Payer will not receive a three months void exemption or any other Unoccupied rate exemption in relation to Unoccupied Hereditaments or Hereditaments that become Unoccupied during the BID Term, unless such Unoccupied Hereditament is a Listed Building in which case it will receive full exemption from the BID Levy.
- 6.3 If on a particular day there is no NDR Payer in existence in respect of a Hereditament then no BID Levy is payable on that day in respect of that Hereditament.
- 6.4 If on a particular day a BID Levy Payer is in receipt of NNDR Mandatory Charitable Relief in respect of a Hereditament then the BID Levy for that day will be reduced by 80% and such 80% allowance will be applied after first applying any other applicable allowances.
- 6.5 There will be no allowances applicable to the BID Levy corresponding to NDR Discretionary Relief, NDR Hardship Relief, NDR (Section 44A) (Partly Occupied) Relief, NDR Small Business Rate Relief or NDR Transitional Phasing.

## **7 COLLECTION OF THE BID LEVY**

- 7.1 The Council shall serve a Demand Notice on a BID Levy Payer as soon as practicable after the Council becomes aware of a BID Levy liability. The Council may serve a Demand Notice before the beginning of a Chargeable Period in accordance with paragraph 5(2) of schedule 4 of the Regulations. The Demand Notice must make it clear to the BID Levy Payer that the BID Levy for a Chargeable Period must be paid by the Single Instalment Due Date.
- 7.2 The BID Levy for a Chargeable Period will be payable in advance upon the service of a Demand Notice.
- 7.3 Before exercising its powers under paragraph 8(4) of schedule 4 of the Regulations the Council shall allow the BID Company to make representations as to the manner in which the Council should exercise its discretion under that paragraph and in deciding how to exercise its discretion the Council shall have regard to any such representations.
- 7.4 The BID Company may authorise Write-Offs, as appropriate.

## **8 ENFORCEMENT AND RECOVERY OF THE BID LEVY**

### **8.1 Stage 1**

- 8.1.1 The Council will serve a Demand Notice at least 14 days before the Single Instalment Due Date.

### **8.2 Stage 2**

- 8.2.1 In the event that a BID Levy Payer does not pay the BID Levy by the Single Instalment Due Date in full the Council will serve a notice at least 10 days thereafter on the BID Levy Payer for an amount equal to the Sum Unpaid (a "Reminder Notice"). Such Reminder Notice must be in terms demanding payment of the Sum Unpaid within seven days.

### **8.3 Stage 3**

- 8.3.1 In the event that a BID Levy Payer does not pay the Sum Unpaid in full within seven days from the date of the Reminder Notice, the Council may apply to a Magistrates' Court for a Liability Order after 14 days of the date of the Reminder Notice.

### **8.4 Stage 4**

- 8.4.1 In the event that a Magistrates' Court makes a Liability Order the Council will instruct the Enforcement Agent within a reasonable period thereafter to execute the Liability Order.
- 8.4.2 In addition to a Liability Order, the BID Company may request the Council to apply for a different order and such order may include an order for Committal and an order for Winding Up a company. Where such a request is made, the Council shall not be required to take the action requested unless the BID Company first agrees to pay all or part of the Council's costs in taking such action. The Council may further require the BID Company to pay such costs before the action is taken.

### **8.5 General Enforcement and Recovery Provisions**

- 8.5.1 The Council may enter into an agreement with a BID Levy Payer for payment of a Sum Unpaid at any time after service of a Demand Notice and such agreements do not require consent of the BID Company.
- 8.5.2 Costs recovered by the Council from a BID Levy Payer as a consequence of applying for and / or obtaining orders from a Magistrates' Court will be retained by the Council to meet the costs of taking such action.
- 8.5.3 The Council will not charge the BID Company for work carried out by an Enforcement Agent pursuant to this Agreement and the Enforcement Agent will retain the fees prescribed for that work by the Taking Control of Goods (Fees) Regulations 2014.

## **9 BILLING/RECOVERY DOCUMENTS**

- 9.1 The Council will use reasonable endeavours to agree with the BID Company the design of all Demand Notices and letters from the Council to BID Levy Payers.
- 9.2 The BID Company will produce the information required by paragraph 3(2) of schedule 4 of the Regulations in respect of each BID Levy Payer in the form of an information leaflet which explains the BID Levy and such information leaflet will be served on the BID Levy Payer at the same time as the Demand Notice. The Council will advise the BID Company of the date by which such information leaflets must be delivered to the Council or its contractor, the required volume and any specific delivery instructions and the BID Company will comply with such requirements.

### SCHEDULE 3

#### DATA PROTECTION

##### 1 DEFINITIONS

1.1 The following expressions have the meanings given:

**Controller, Processor, Data Subject, Personal Data, and Personal Data Breach** take the meaning given in the UK GDPR.

Data Protection Legislation:

- (a) the UK GDPR;
- (b) the Data Protection Act 2018 to the extent that it relates to processing of personal data and privacy; and
- (c) all applicable Legislation about the processing of personal data and privacy in force from time to time in the UK.

**Data Protection Impact Assessment:** an assessment by the Controller of the impact of the envisaged processing on the protection of Personal Data.

**Data Loss Event:** any event that results, or may result, in unauthorised access to Personal Data held pursuant to this Agreement, and/or actual or potential loss and/or destruction of Personal Data in breach of this Agreement, including any Personal Data Breach.

**Data Subject Access Request:** a request made by, or on behalf of, a Data Subject in accordance with rights granted pursuant to the Data Protection Legislation to access their Personal Data.

**UK GDPR:** has the meaning given to it in section 3(10) (as supplemented by section 205(4)) of the Data Protection Act 2018.

**Protective Measures:** appropriate technical and organisational measures which may include: pseudonymising and encrypting Personal Data, ensuring confidentiality, integrity, availability and resilience of systems and services, ensuring that availability of and access to Personal Data can be restored in a timely manner after an incident, and regularly assessing and evaluating the effectiveness of the such measures adopted by it.

1.2 For the purposes of this Schedule, where terms and expressions used are not defined in this Agreement they shall have the meaning assigned to them in the Data Protection Legislation.

## 2 JOINT CONTROLLERS

- 2.1 The BID Company acknowledges that the Council is under no obligation to transfer any Personal Data to the BID Company. Any such transfers will be made by the Council as a good- will gesture.
- 2.2 Each Party shall be responsible for its own obligations as a Controller under the Data Protection Legislation.
- 2.3 Each Party shall perform or receive the Services in compliance with the Data Protection Legislation.
- 2.4 The subject matter, duration, nature, and purpose of Processing of Personal Data by and on behalf of the Parties under this Agreement is detailed in Annex A below.
- 2.5 Each Party shall:
  - 2.4.1 maintain its own records of processing under Article 30 of the UK GDPR;
  - 2.4.2 be responsible for determining its data security obligations, taking into account the state of the art, the costs of implementation and the nature, scope, context and purposes of the processing of Personal Data, as well as the risks of varying likelihood and severity to the rights and freedoms of the DataSubjects;
  - 2.4.3 implement appropriate Protective Measures to protect the Personal Data against unauthorised or unlawful Processing and accidental destruction or loss; and
  - 2.4.4 ensure the protection of the rights of the Data Subject, in such a manner that the Processing will meet the requirements of the Data Protection Legislation where Personal Data have been transmitted by it, or while the Personal Data are in its possession or control.
- 2.5 When transferring Personal Data:
  - 2.5.1 the Party transferring the Personal Data (the **Data Transferor**) warrants and undertakes to the Party receiving the Personal Data (the **Data Recipient**) that such Personal Data have been collected, processed and transferred in accordance with the Data Protection Legislation, this paragraph 2, Annex A and any other laws applicable to the Data Transferor and to the Personal Data;
  - 2.5.2 the Data Recipient warrants and undertakes to the Data Transferor that:

- (a) it will process the Personal Data in accordance with the Data Protection Legislation;
  - (b) it has and will continue to have in place appropriate technical and organisational measures to protect the Personal Data against accidental or unlawful destruction or accidental loss, alteration, unauthorised disclosure or access, and which provide a level of security appropriate to the risk represented by the processing and the nature of the data to be protected; and
  - (c) it has the legal authority to give the warranties and fulfil the undertakings set out in this Agreement; and
- 2.5.3 if the Data Recipient is in breach of any of its obligations under this Agreement then the Data Transferor may temporarily suspend the transfer of the Personal Data to the Data Recipient until the breach is repaired.
- 2.6 Where appropriate , each Party shall promptly refer to the other Party any requests, from:
  - 2.6.1 Data Subjects in regards to
    - (a) providing information under Articles 13 and 14 of the UK GDPR; and
    - (b) Data Subject Access Requests under Articles 15 to 22 inclusive of the UK GDPR;
  - 2.6.2 the Information Commissioner; and
  - 2.6.3 any other law enforcement authority,

and to the extent it is reasonable and practical to so do, consult with the other party (at. no additional cost) before responding to such request.
- 2.7 Each Party shall provide any assistance reasonably requested by the other Party in relation to enquiries from Data Subjects concerning Processing of their Personal Data.
- 2.8 The Parties shall discuss any proposal by any Party to notify the Information Commissioner and/or Data Subjects where necessary about Data Loss Events and Personal Data Breaches.
- 2.9 The Parties shall work together to complete any required Data Protection Impact Assessments.
- 2.10 The Council will be the primary point of contact for Data Subjects in relation this Agreement.
- 2.11 The Parties shall publish the essence of their relationship as set out in this Schedule 3.

## Annex A – Processing, Personal Data and Data Subjects

1. The contact details of the Council's Data Protection Officer is: Fatima Zohra
2. The contact details of the BID Company's Data Protection Officer are: Mr Rico Pieri

DESCRIPTION	DETAILS
<b>Identity of the Controller and Processor</b>	The Parties acknowledge that they are Joint Controllers for the purposes of the Data Protection Legislation in respect of:  The operation of the BID and for using the BID Levy for the purposes of achieving the BID Arrangements
<b>Subject matter of the Processing</b>	The processing is needed to raise and collect the BID Levy and reporting of such data related to the BID Levy for the BID Arrangement to the BID Company.
<b>Duration of the processing</b>	Throughout the Chargeable Period under this Operating Agreement
<b>Nature and purposes of the processing</b>	For the purpose of collection, recording, storage, consultation, use, disclosure by transmission, or destruction of data (whether or not by automated means) in respect of the BID Levy regarding the BID Arrangements.
<b>Type of Personal Data</b>	Name, address, e-mail address, telephone number, occupation, account number.
<b>Categories of Data Subject</b>	BID Levy Payer
<b>Plan for return and destruction of the Personal Data once the Processing is complete unless legal requirement to preserve that type of Personal Data</b>	The personal data is retained for 6 years on expiry of the last Chargeable Period under this Agreement and is destroyed in accordance with each Parties privacy policies.