

PRESS RELEASE

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London Bridge businesses announce plans to strengthen their community and continue improving their neighbourhood.

Businesses in London Bridge have been successfully managing their own business district for the past five years as part of Team London Bridge.

In November 2005, rate-paying organisations based in the London Bridge area voted to create a Business Improvement District (BID) and pay annual contributions towards a fund used for services, projects and events that benefit businesses and employees located locally.

Over the past five years the business-led board of Team London Bridge and executive team of five staff have delivered some key services. These include extra local Police patrols, a waste recycling scheme that saves businesses money, area promotion, a loyalty scheme to encourage use of local shops and services, a CSR/community grants scheme for youth projects, extra street cleaning and a packed events and networking programme.

The initial BID term ends in March 2011 so member businesses are now deciding if they wish to continue working together to achieve common goals by providing these additional services.

As these initiatives have proved hugely popular and successful, Team London Bridge launched its proposal for a second BID term, 'A BID for Renewal 2011-2016', on 14th July at City Hall. Guests from the business community including many SMEs as well as large organisations such as the Greater London Authority, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Norton Rose and Southwark Council heard how Team London Bridge plan to increase the projects delivered by their BID while continuing these existing activities.

From Team London Bridge's consultation with local business leaders, it is clear that forward thinking organisations no longer think that being a responsible business is purely about considering environmental issues. The emphasis of 'A BID for Renewal' is on businesses empowering their own community to take responsibility for their neighbourhood and surroundings, bringing a degree of devolved power to a local level and having an impact both today and in the long-term.

Unique local priorities that have been identified include working with a variety of agencies to ensure the area has:

- A world-class transport interchange
- An increase in retail offer
- A pedestrian focused public realm
- A network of welcoming and attractive Victorian railway arches

These priorities will be integrated into the existing programme of services while ensuring that the London Bridge area is ready for the influx of people and opportunities that the Shard London Bridge and 2012 Olympic Games will bring.

All business rate paying organisations (with a rateable value of over £10,000) will have the chance to vote between 1st October and 5th November as to whether they wish to extend the London Bridge BID until 2016. If a majority 'no' vote is returned all of these extra services – including additional Policing and cleaning – will cease to exist beyond 31st March 2011.

James Dinwiddie, Director of local architects Dinwiddie McLaren said, *'It has given me great pleasure to be the Chair of Team London Bridge for the last five years. The team has grown with strong local relationships being formed in order for projects to be carried out successfully, and a real sense of community has now been attached to the London Bridge area.'*

Boris Johnson, Mayor of London, said of BIDs: *"As you know, I fully recognise the excellent contribution that Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) make to the London economy, and their increasingly important function in the 'place shaping' of local town centres and industrial estates. The extra safety measures that they provide, the cleaning and improving the environment, contributes a great deal towards achieving my vision of London as the best big city on earth."*

Located in the north of the London Borough of Southwark, the London Bridge BID is home to the national headquarters of global firms, local and metropolitan government, hundreds of thriving SMEs, one of the capital's busiest railway stations, four performing arts venues, dozens of bars and restaurants, and what will soon be Europe's tallest skyscraper – the Shard London Bridge.

For more details about Team London Bridge please contact Donald Campbell on 020 7407 4701 or email donald@teamlondonbridge.co.uk. ENDS

EDITOR'S NOTES

- 1) Team London Bridge's mandate is to: *'to make London Bridge a world-class business district and visitor destination that is better managed, cared for and connected'*.
- 2) Team London Bridge (formerly the London Bridge Business Improvement District Company) was created in 2006 after rate-paying local businesses voted to create a Business Improvement District (BID) and pay into a community fund. A vote in autumn 2010 will decide if local businesses want Team London Bridge to carry on for a second five year term until 2016.
- 3) There are currently approx 270 levy paying businesses in the Team London Bridge BID area and 406 heriditements (business premises). An estimated 32,000 people are currently employed in these businesses.
- 4) Team London Bridge delivers projects and services under five key headings: Security & Safety; Visit Us (area promotion); Environmental; Building Bridges and Advocacy & Networking.
- 5) There are now 23 Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) in London and 95 across the UK and Ireland.
- 6) Team London Bridge is a legacy organisation of the Pool of London Partnership.
- 7) More information about Team London Bridge and their projects can be found at www.teamlondonbridge.co.uk