

BID Presentations Q&A points

Public Meeting at Lazy Daisy's on the 4th October 2011.

A	Questioner	Question/Answer
04.10.11 am	Q1] Robert Fowler, Accountant; after a successful YES vote, are there controls on the nature and amount of spending on specific projects (for eg extra street cleaning)?	A1] Yes, there are controls. The Bid Board will be a Limited Company and was such will operate under that legislation. The BID Board will function as a Board and set targets and priorities in accepting/declining specific projects put forward by the membership. SLDC has a control function in that they may only release monies to the Board on presentation of invoices for the sum stated
	Q2] Graham Vincent SLDC Cabinet Member; comment to the meeting	A2] He envisages his role as supportive – and L23 businesses should consider him as the BID representative in the Cabinet, which is business orientated and wants the L23 BID to succeed and appreciated the way in which the BID Steering Group ‘came out of the blocks’ from the start. SLDC are looking for success with the L23 BID; it is the first BID SLDC has had to handle – and (like the Steering Group), met a ‘learning curve’. Mr Vincent appreciates the concerns expressed concerning finance, which were being resolved as he spoke. He confirmed that all levy monies collected by SLDC are ‘ring-fenced’ in a separate account and only released to the BID against submitted invoices.
	Q3] Marion King, Triarom; will SLDC charge for their services – collecting the levy?	A3] Yes, that is covered in the BID legislation. The BID finances are not within the SLDC Budget so a charge will be made to the BID Board. SLDC also will have to pay the levy on properties it has in the L23 area - so there could be a service level agreement equitable to both sides.
	Q4] Kim Burrows, Triarom; if BID projects go out to tender, will local businesses be invited to tender?	A4] Yes, local businesses will receive tender details. Under its guidelines, the BID Steering Group also work that way, placing orders locally where possible and cost effective.
	Q5] Ross Woodruff, Ocean Marine Group; the BID presentation referred to the role of SLDC; what is the position re LDNPA?	A5] LDNPA will support and work with any BID Board (probably on a matched funding basis). LDNPA staff have the full documentation on the BID Steering Group budget proposals, and have suggested other possible projects – which would be a matter for a BID Board. Cumbria Tourism are supportive of the BID and would work with any BID Board (on a matched funding basis). Cumbria Chamber of Trade are also supportive of the BID.
	Q6] Marion King; if the ballot result is YES, can those who vote NO opt out of the levy?	A6] NO, the legislation is clear once the ballot result is known all businesses in the LA23 area have to comply with the result. It should be remembered that only those non-domestic rate payers whose Rateable Value is £3k and over will be subject to the levy.

