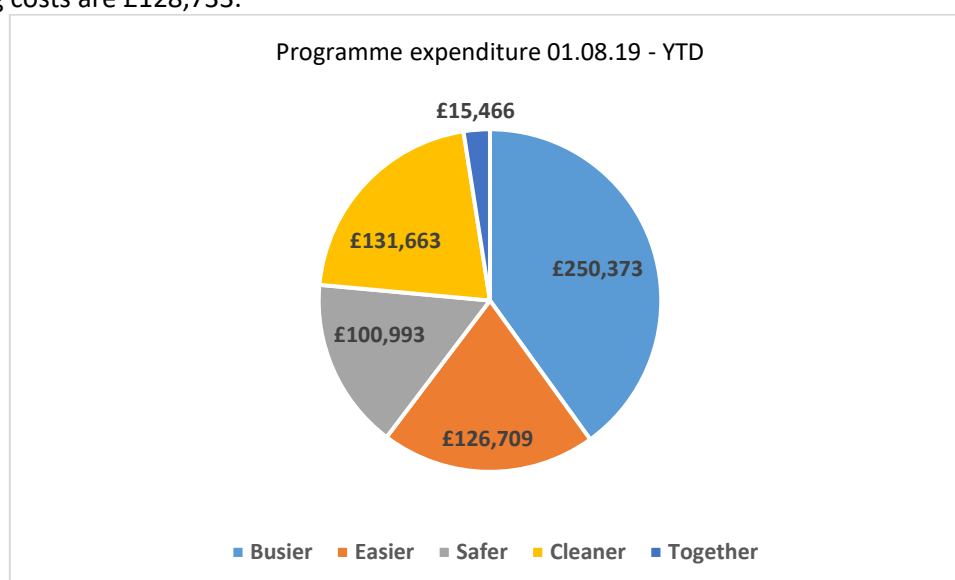


Sheffield BID's renewal ballot was halted in March and section 79 of the Coronavirus Act 2020 made provision to extend the existing BID arrangements until 31 March 2021. Therefore, enclosed with this communication is the invoice for the BID levy for the year 1 August 2020 to 31 March 2021. All payments should be made to Sheffield City Council who have a statutory duty to collect the levy on behalf of the BID.

The accounts and activities carried out during the 2019/20 12-month period will be reported at our next Annual General Meeting scheduled for early 2021.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic we supported many projects and events designed to deliver the current business plan. Our annual report to be published later this year will include a full analysis of this.

The total levy collected in 2019/20 was **£803,774.00**. The chart below shows a breakdown of how this was spent. Programme expenditure for the year is £625,204 across five workstreams and operating costs are £128,733.



These figures may alter upon completion of our year end accounts.

In the wake of COVID-19, like many businesses, we have taken steps to reorganise and reduce our operating costs. We must consider the best way to ensure funding for our continued operation, but we must also consider the significant financial pressures on those businesses who are liable for the mandatory BID levy.

During what is an incredibly challenging time, Sheffield BID is committed to supporting the business community. We are helping to ensure a coordinated local response to the COVID-19 crisis and a swift return to business-as-usual, delivering our plans for a vibrant city centre.

We are dedicated to following through on the plans which we had already started delivering to support the COVID-19 recovery. Our high-profile visitor events which had already been planned for delivery this summer have been deferred to 2021.

Crisis – initial response

- Sheffield BID has remained open throughout, providing daily operational support to those businesses still trading.
- Many businesses were worried about the physical security of their firms, as well as their financial security. We have introduced a new roaming BID security team to monitor premises and buildings 7-days week between midnight and 6am, acting as a strong deterrent to criminality.
- Our Street Rangers have continued to sanitise areas affected by rough sleeper and other detritus to help manage contagion. The team has worked at full capacity during the lockdown providing reassurance to those essential businesses who remained open.
- Partnership working with South Yorkshire Police focused on strengthening the security of the city centre from commercial break ins and other potential vulnerabilities.
- A local business guide and directory was used to promote essential businesses as well as local goods and services that could be delivered online or in line with government health advice.

Pre-recovery – building capacity and supporting business adaptation

- Partnership working with Sheffield City Council focused on reopening areas of the public realm sustainably and safely, supporting businesses as they returned to trade.
- We continue to lobby Government to #RaiseTheBar in partnership with other BIDs.
- Through our visitor marketing channels we are promoting all local businesses which have reopened, helping to reconnect communities with the city centre.
- A joint marketing campaign with stakeholders has been launched to encourage people to shop locally, highlighting the creativity, generosity and bravery of local businesses during this difficult time.

Transformation – leading improvement

We hope to continue to support the resilience, innovation and duty of care of our levy payers, in the toughest of circumstances.

When we move through the COVID-19 crisis, Sheffield BID is ready to play a central role in encouraging visitors back to the city centre. The year ahead will see a continuance of our cleaning and security teams to help manage the commercial environment, ensuring it is safe, clean and maintained through additional and enhanced services. We will be working on several projects that were deferred this year to ensure they can be delivered in a safe and sustainable way to promote a vibrant city centre. We will be using innovative digital technologies to help support the recovery of the city centre, and the retail and hospitality sectors.

We all anticipate that high streets will be somewhat different post COVID, so it will be necessary to consult once again with businesses ahead of our rescheduled renewal ballot to reflect the ‘new normal’. We are keen to hear the concerns of all our levy payers so that we may help to address them. We thank you for your continued support for Sheffield BID.

***The Board of Directors – Sheffield City Centre BID Ltd
July 2020***