

2026/27



CITY
RIVER
PARTNERSHIP

City River Partnership

Overview of Projects, Income & Expenditure

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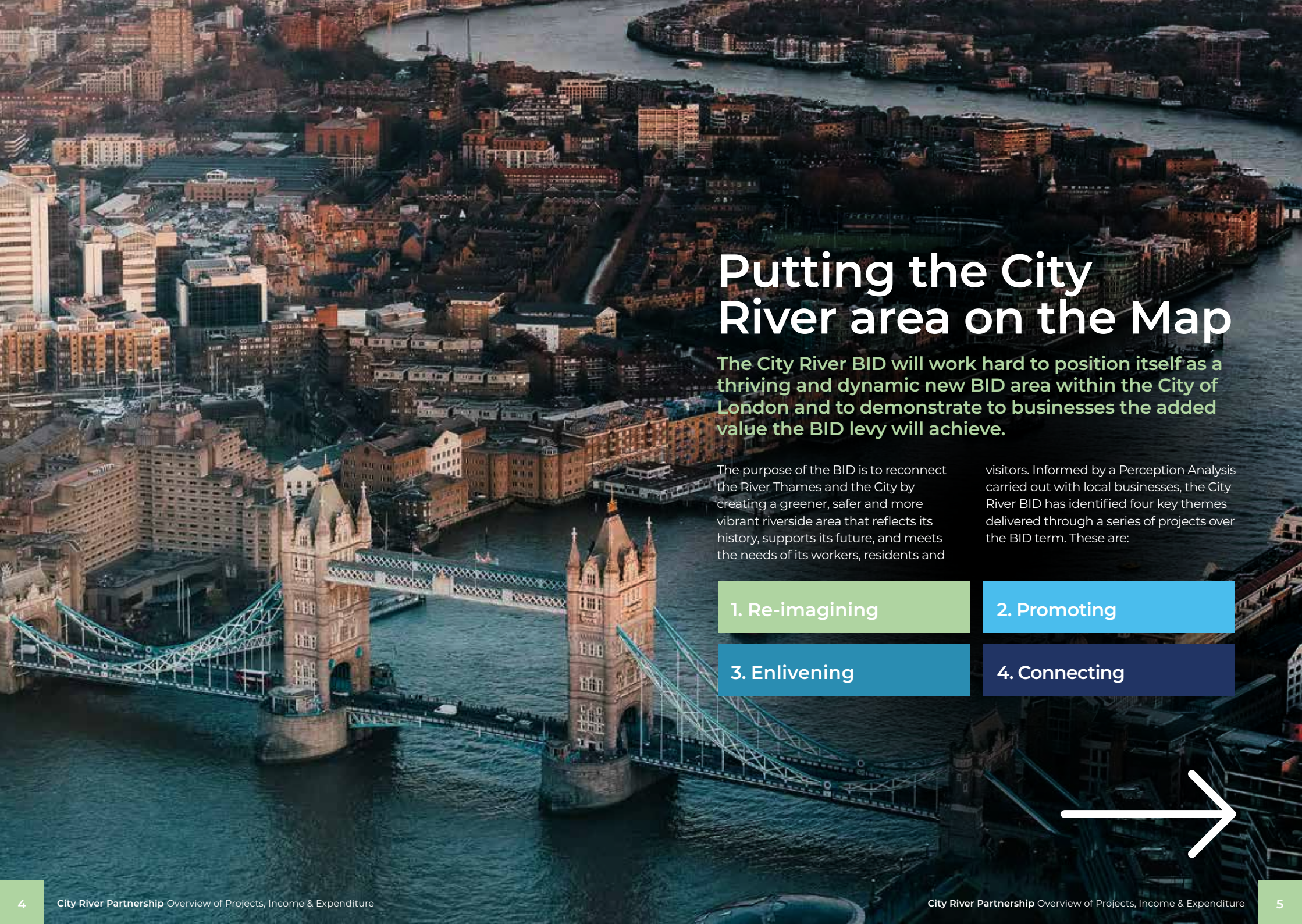
Introduction

In 2024 the City of London Corporation commissioned a feasibility study to test the appetite of local businesses along the north side of the River Thames, from Tower Hill to Blackfriars, to work together and consider whether a new Business Improvement District should be created for the area.

Following extensive engagement and a Perception Analysis of local businesses, the City River BID Proposal and Business Plan was published and the ballot took place in June and July 2026. We're delighted to report a resounding result: the ballot closed on 7 July 2026 with 72.5% of votes cast in favour, a clear and encouraging endorsement from local business levy payers.

From 5 August 2026 the BID will go "live", launching delivery of the five-year Business Plan and bringing tangible benefits to the diverse mix of global corporates, SMEs, hospitality operators and cultural institutions that make up the BID area – stretching along the riverside from Tower Hill, past Monument and Cannon Street, to Blackfriars.

As a business-led, not-for-profit partnership, the City River BID will work in close collaboration with the City of London Corporation to reconnect the river and the City, providing a collective voice for business and driving forward positive change along one of the most historic and recognisable stretches of the Thames. All BID activities are managed by a not-for-profit company directed by a Board of levy paying members to which the BID team is accountable. The BID budget of over £7 million across five years is funded via a small levy of 1% payable by businesses with a rateable value of £200,000 or greater.



Putting the City River area on the Map

The City River BID will work hard to position itself as a thriving and dynamic new BID area within the City of London and to demonstrate to businesses the added value the BID levy will achieve.

The purpose of the BID is to reconnect the River Thames and the City by creating a greener, safer and more vibrant riverside area that reflects its history, supports its future, and meets the needs of its workers, residents and

visitors. Informed by a Perception Analysis carried out with local businesses, the City River BID has identified four key themes delivered through a series of projects over the BID term. These are:

1. Re-imagining

2. Promoting

3. Enlivening

4. Connecting





Re-imagining



1. Re-imagining

- Commission a comprehensive study to identify, prioritise and cost opportunities for public realm improvements along the east-west corridors that dominate the City River area, supporting a future Healthy Streets Plan.
- Enhance movement to and along the riverside through a coordinated wayfinding strategy, including heritage trails connecting key gateways from Bazalgette Embankment to the Tower of London.
- Undertake a feasibility study exploring greater use of the River Thames for freight, logistics and visitor transport.
- Deliver a programme of greening initiatives, including tree planting with the City of London Corporation Gardens team and enhancement of the network of parks and green spaces across the area.



Promoting



2. Promoting

- Develop a clear identity, brand and destination strategy for the City River BID that positions the Thames as the area's unifying spine.
- Deliver joint marketing and promotional campaigns with neighbouring City BIDs and the City of London Corporation and its institutions.
- Expand and strengthen the pilot ambassador team trialled very successfully over the last 2 years to shape the visitor experience, providing a reassuring on street presence and also reporting local environmental issues.
- Develop a coordinated evening and weekend calendar of curated events and cultural programming to increase footfall and dwell time.



Enlivening



3. Enlivening

- Deliver a coordinated programme of seasonal events and activations aimed at workers, residents and visitors throughout the year.
- Host and support cultural, creative and sporting events on and along the River Thames in collaboration with the City Corporation, the Port of London Authority and cultural partners.
- Support the City of London Police cluster panel model and deliver community safety initiatives, including phone and cycle marking and Violence against Women and Girls awareness campaigns.
- Support the delivery and expansion of Safe Havens.
- Assist with the coordinated management of rough sleeping by working collaboratively with City of London Corporation and other stakeholders.



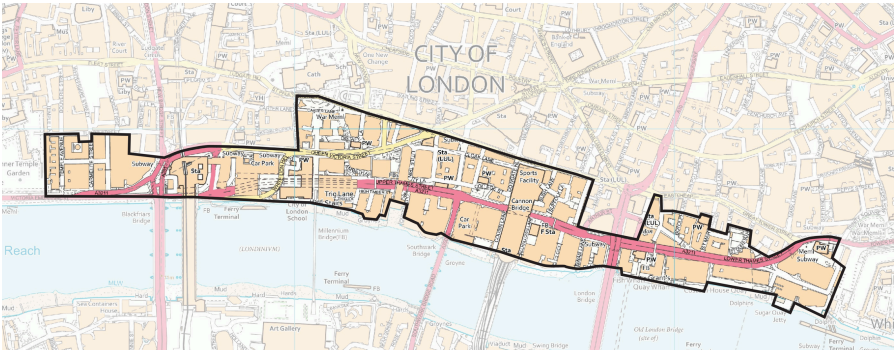
Connecting



4. Connecting

- Establish a City River area corporate volunteering and community network, building on the City Belonging Project.
- Support and amplify the work of local charities, including the Royal Society for Blind Children and the City Bridge Foundation.
- Deliver a programme of networking and peer-to-peer events for businesses, building on the work of Heart of the City and the SME Gateway.
- Identify and support access to training and skills development opportunities, and coordinate activity aligned with the City of London Corporation's Suicide Prevention Action Plan.

BID Map



Anticipated Income and Expenditure 2026/27*	
BID Levy Income (95% collection rate)	£851,233
Voluntary Contributions	£32,740
Total Income	£883,973
Re-imagining	£268,728
Promoting	£176,353
Enlivening	£134,364
Connecting	£134,364
Staffing and Overheads**	£125,966
Contingency***	£44,199
Total Expenditure	£883,973

*The Business Improvement District went live midway through the fiscal year on 05 August 2026. As such the figures shown are prorated to 31 March 2027.

**Includes all statutory obligations such as Annual Audit, Insurance and Local Authority cost of collecting Levy

***Comprises a 5% allowance for levy fluctuations..



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in City River Partnership



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