



Altham CCTV
Business Improvement District

Business Plan

2007 - 2011



Introduction

Crime has consistently been at the top of the list of concerns for businesses on Altham Business Park and Industrial Estate (hereafter referred to as 'The Estate'). Despite crime reduction initiatives and a period of lower reported crime levels there is still persistent criminal activity on The Estate. A steering group, who convene to address common problems on The Estate, requested that Groundwork and the Local Authority develop a comprehensive security proposal to further reduce criminal activity. In acknowledgement that a vehicle is generally required to access The Estate, a robust CCTV scheme has been devised with the ability to monitor vehicle registration plates.

The scheme will operate for 5 years commencing on 1st April 2007. It will utilise the latest technology covering vehicular access to the estate with closed circuit television (CCTV) and automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) cameras. They will be monitored 'live' in the Police Communications Centre, providing an additional level of security for businesses with the objectives of reducing crime, fly tipping, arson and anti-social behaviour.

The initiative will be funded through the introduction of a Business Improvement District (BID), a mechanism for collecting the revenue needed through a self imposed business levy. This proposal has been developed through a partnership of Altham businesses, Groundwork, Hyndburn Borough Council and Lancashire Constabulary

What is a Business Improvement District (BID)

The Business Improvement District Regulations 2004 enables local businesses in a clearly defined area to form partnerships with stakeholders to implement improvements which will benefit their locality.

BIDs work **in addition** to existing services provided by the local authority to encourage the revitalisation of an area, addressing issues such as image, security, cleanliness or local transport.

Businesses decide on the issues they want to address, the amount of funding to be raised and the services they want to implement. These must be agreed upon by a majority of ratepayers in the BID area via a Ballot. Approval of a BID has to meet two tests: Firstly a simple majority of those voting in the BID ballot must vote in favour. Secondly, those voting in favour must represent a majority by rateable value.

The improvements will be funded via a supplement to the business rate billed by the local authority. These additional funds will be handed over to a BID company and used to deliver the improvements.

The Need for a BID at Altham

Consultations with Altham businesses were undertaken as part of the 'Green Business Park' initiative. This identified security as a major concern and a key priority which could be addressed cost effectively by businesses working in partnership.

Some improvements have led to a reduction in reported crime but crime is still a problem on the estate.

Additionally there is a concern that criminal activity has been dispersed to neighbouring business parks and could return if the momentum against criminal activity is not maintained.

There is also a fear of the impact of crime in disrupting production, increasing insurance premiums and subsequently on the bottom line. Wider issues reported by businesses include fly tipping and dangerous driving.

This proposal has taken into account all the results of consultations and feedback from previous initiatives to provide a cost effective additional level of security.

The BID Proposal

This BID proposal utilises the latest in CCTV technology with the installation of 4 Automatic Number Plate Recognition cameras on Altham Lane supported by 2 overview cameras. Automatic Number Plate Recognition is a technology whereby the camera is linked to a computer and is able to "read" and record the number plate of passing vehicles. The cameras will be strategically placed to capture an image of every vehicle entering and leaving the estate.

The real power of this proposal, however, is that Lancashire Constabulary has agreed for this ANPR technology to be monitored 24 hours per day, 7 days per week by their Police Communications Centre at Greenbank Police Station and be linked to the Police National Database.

The power of this partnership provides a level of intelligence not available to private, commercial security companies and affords a level of security not usually accessible.

For example, this means that the Police Communications Centre monitoring station will be alerted the instant the computer recognises the number plate of a stolen vehicle, or the number plate of a vehicle which belongs to a known criminal. The overview cameras will then be able to track the offending vehicle whilst a response vehicle is despatched to intercept.

As well as deterring against theft as witnessed in the recent past, other benefits include:

- A deterrent against theft, arson, vandalism, damage to property and fly tipping.
- A source of 'live' intelligence for the Police.
- Improved safety for staff and customers.

The BID Area

The boundary of the proposed Altham BID includes the industrial areas of Altham Business Park and Altham Industrial Estate, in the Borough of Hyndburn, in Lancashire. It is formed by the following boundaries:

- to the north, the A678 Blackburn / Burnley Road
- to the east, Shorten Brook (the boundary between Hyndburn and Burnley Borough Councils)
- to the south, the boundary of the industrial estate
- to the west, Clough Brook

It includes the following roads within the boundary:

- Altham Lane, Syke Side Drive, Calder Court, Walton Drive, Shortenbrook Drive, Shortenbrook Way, Metcalfe Drive, Laneside, Venture Court, Barnfield Way

Map of the BID Area



Ariel View of Altham showing BID Area Boundary in red



Legal Structure and Management

The BID will take the form of a company limited by guarantee. It will develop further, the partnership of local businesses at Altham which was established as a result of the Green Business Park Initiative in 2002. There will be a minimum of three Directors on the Board, representing the businesses with responsibility for managing the delivery of the BID programme. Businesses will be invited to put forward a representative to become a Director of the BID Company.

A further Management Group consisting of wider stakeholders including resident businesses, Lancashire Constabulary and Hyndburn Borough Council will meet on a regular basis, receive progress reports and provide guidance on operational matters.

Funding

The project budget for the 5 year period is shown in the table below.

Expenditure	£
Equipment & Maintenance	157355
Monitoring	15184
BID Company Management	36659
Development	5000
Business Support / Co-ordination	28669
Contingency / Reserves	23120
5 year total	265988

Income	£
Private sector BID Levy	265988
5 year total	265988

BID Company Management costs cover the management and implementation of the BID including collection of the levy, financial and company management. Groundwork Ltd will manage the delivery of the initiative on behalf of the Altham BID Company. Groundwork will provide the Altham BID Company Board and Management Group with regular financial reports.

Equipment will be leased from and maintained by Guide Security Services. Cameras will be monitored by Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council at the Greenbank Police Communications Centre.

Development costs include the cost of the BID Ballot.

Any surplus generated annually will be carried into the next year and only used to satisfy the BID aims or administration of the BID Company.

The BID Ballot

The Altham BID proposal will only proceed if a formal BID Ballot is successful.

The BID Ballot will be administered by Hyndburn Borough Council in accordance with the BID Regulations (2004). It will be a postal ballot.

All listed non-domestic ratepayers within the BID boundary on 15th September 2006 will be entitled to one vote per hereditament. In the case of a vacant property the property owner will be entitled to vote.

The ballot will need to meet two tests. Firstly a majority (51%) in number of those voting must vote in favour. Secondly, there must be a majority in proportion of the aggregate rateable value of those voting.

Full voting procedures will be issued with ballot papers.

The BID Levy & Collection

The BID levy will be structured through a banding system outlined below, based on the 2005 Rating Assessment as listed on the Valuation Office website at 15th September 2006 (www.voa.gov.uk)

Band	Rateable Value (£)	Levy (£)
Band A	Up to 29,999	600
Band B	30,000 – 80,999	900
Band C	Above 81,000	1200

If the Ballot is successful the BID levy will have the same status as your Non-Domestic Rates Bill (i.e. will be a Statutory Debt)

The levy will be increased annually by an inflationary factor of 3%.

No individual hereditament within the Altham BID area will be exempted from the BID levy.

Any new hereditaments added to the Non Domestic Rating List during the initiative will be liable to pay the levy.

Any valuation adjustments, successful appeals, or new hereditaments will be adjusted annually on 1st January.

A business that is in occupation of a hereditament on the 1st January will be liable for the BID levy for that year.

Where a premises is vacant on the 1st January the liability to pay the annual BID levy will revert to the legal occupier (e.g. leasehold or freehold interest, etc)

The levy will be collected by Hyndburn Borough Council as a single payment.

Alteration of BID Arrangements

The BID area cannot be changed nor the BID levy increased without an alteration ballot.

The Altham BID Company Board will have the power to reprofile budget headings and costs within the constraints of the revenue received through the BID.

Further Information

Please contact either:

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for further details or points of clarification.