

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2003
BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS (ENGLAND) REGULATIONS 2004**

NOTICE OF BALLOT

PROPOSED MORPETH BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

This is to give notice that a ballot is to be held on the proposal to establish a Business Improvement District (BID) for Morpeth.

The County Council has appointed **UK Engage of Image House, 10 Acorn Business Park, Heaton Lane, Stockport SK4 1AS** as agents for this ballot. The ballot will be conducted entirely by post and ballot papers will be sent to those eligible to vote on Monday, 5 March 2018 for return to them by no later than **5pm on Monday, 9 April 2018** (the "day of the ballot").

Who can vote in the BID Ballot?

Persons eligible to vote in the ballot will be the non-domestic ratepayers who are liable for the BID Levy as at the date of this Notice. Each person entitled to vote in this ballot shall have one vote in respect of each hereditament occupied or (if unoccupied) owned by them in the geographical area of the proposed BID.

Appointment of Proxy

Persons eligible to vote in the BID ballot may appoint someone else to vote on their behalf (for example, if you are going to be away at the time of the ballot). Applications to appoint a proxy must be submitted to BID Ballot Holder's agent, UK Engage, at the above address no later than **5pm on Friday, March 30 2018**. An application for the appointment of a proxy must be made in writing and:

- a) state the full name and address of the person whom the person entitled to vote (the applicant) wishes to appoint as a proxy;
- b) state the address of the applicant's hereditament or hereditaments;
- c) be signed by the applicant; and
- d) contain a statement by the applicant that the proxy so named has been consulted and is capable and willing to be appointed.

A proxy appointment may be cancelled by notifying UK Engage at the address above no later than **5pm on Wednesday, 4 April 2018**.

Please see over

Lost Ballot Papers

Ballot papers will be sent to those who are eligible to vote by Monday, 5 March 2018. If you (or your proxy if you appoint one), have not received your ballot paper by Tuesday, 3 April 2018 you may apply to UK Engage (address overleaf), for a replacement paper, providing evidence as to your identity.

Spoilt Ballot Papers

If you inadvertently spoil your ballot paper in such a manner that it cannot be conveniently used as a ballot paper, please return it UK Engage (address overleaf). On receipt of the spoilt ballot paper, UK Engage will issue a replacement. No replacements can be issued if the spoilt ballot paper is received by UK Engage later than three working days before the day of the ballot.

Count of Ballot Papers

The ballot papers will be counted on Tuesday 10 April 2018 with the result announced immediately afterwards.

Rejected Ballot Papers

If a ballot paper is duplicated and two are returned bearing the same number or barcode both will be void and not counted. Any ballot papers that are returned unsigned, unmarked or that are void for uncertainty will also be void and not counted.

Declaring the result

The ballot result will declare:

- a) The total number of valid votes cast
- b) The total aggregate rateable value of valid votes cast
- c) The total number of valid votes cast in favour of the BID
- d) The total aggregate rateable value of valid votes in favour of the BID

For the BID Ballot to be successful there must be:

- a) A majority in favour of the BID in the number of those voting and
- b) A majority in favour of the BID in the proportion of rateable value of those voting

Further details of the BID Proposal

If you require further information on the BID, or a copy of the proposal, please contact Ken Dunbar, Engage-n-Change, Tel: 07931 872454, Email: info@moreinmorpeth.co.uk

You may also view the proposal at www.morpethbid.co.uk

Date: 19 February 2018

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