

**Press Release**  
**Tuesday 20th March 2018**

**Results of Hexham BID Consultation published**

The county council has published the results of the recent consultation about the future of the Hexham Business Improvement District (BID) Ltd.

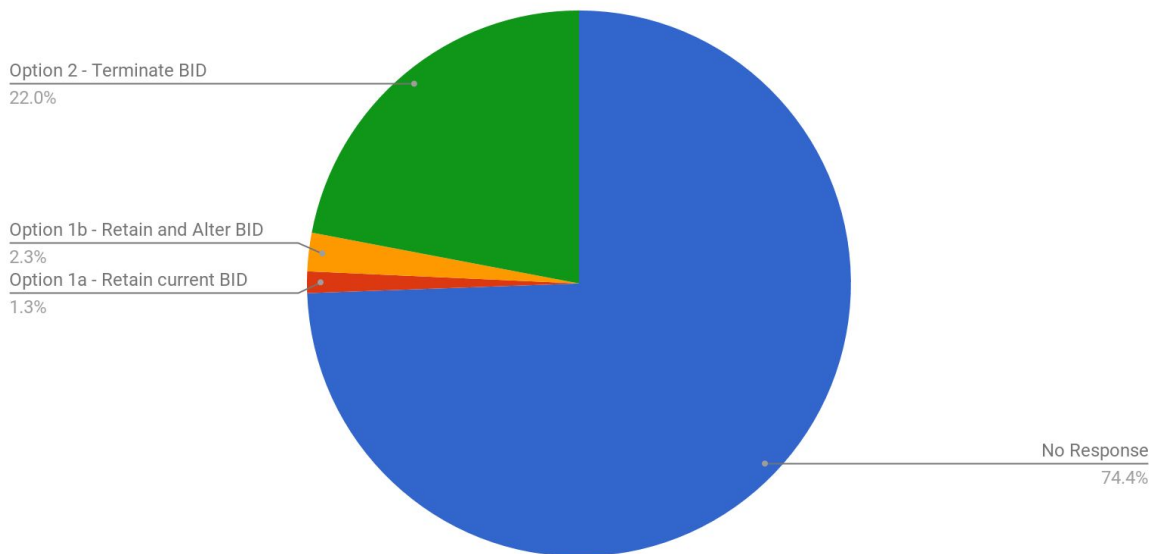
The consultation was undertaken following the resignation of the previous BID Board in December last year.

The council received feedback from 25% of the 704 businesses subject to the BID levy.

Businesses were asked if they would prefer to retain the existing BID arrangements, work towards an alteration of the current arrangements or terminate the BID. 22% of businesses subject to the levy stated they wish to end the BID arrangements.

The responses to the survey are shown in the table below:

Hexham BID Survey Feedback



The consultation also sought views about how Hexham can be improved in the future and a wide range of views were expressed. These include a series of concerns about the BID arrangements but also demand from businesses for a range of improvements to the area.

Northumberland County Council is now encouraging businesses to attend the final part of the consultation process which is a public meeting on Monday 26 March. The meeting at the Beaumont Hotel, Beaumont Street, Hexham will open at 5pm for a 5.30pm start. To register go to [www.northumberland.gov.uk/hexhambid](http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/hexhambid).

In parallel to the consultation process, nominations were invited from the existing BID membership for anyone who wished to put themselves forward as a director of the BID Company.

The county council can confirm that three new directors have been appointed, each representing a local business, and they have formed a new board of Hexham Business Improvement District Limited.

The new directors are:

- Cameron Jamieson, Owner of The Laundry Gallery based at Haugh Lane Industrial Estate;
- Hannah Swann, Store Manager at Beales on Priestpopple; and
- Jason Robinson-Gay, owner of the Robinson-Gay Furniture Company and Art Gallery on Market Street.

Cllr Richard Wearmouth, cabinet member for economic growth at Northumberland County Council also offered his nomination, however, once it became clear that appropriate local business representatives had been appointed, he withdrew his nomination.

Cllr Wearmouth said: “The consultation feedback has been important and I would urge anyone who has not responded to attend the public meeting on Monday night.

“Ultimately, the future of the BID has always been for local businesses to determine, and with a new board in place this can now happen.

“Views expressed in the consultation show that there are things we can do proactively to help the town thrive and we need to work together with the business community to deliver this.”

**ENDS**