



London Borough of Merton

Local Government Act 2003 Willow Industrial Estate Business Improvement District

Notice given pursuant to Regulation 7 and Schedule 2 of the Business Improvement Districts (England) Regulations 2004

1. Notice

This is to give notice that a ballot is to be held on the proposal to create a Business Improvement District (BID) on the Willow Industrial Estate.

2. Who conducts the Ballot?

The ballot will be conducted by the Chief Executive of the London Borough of Merton, Mr Ged Curran, who is the official Ballot Holder.

3. Who can vote?

Those eligible to vote in the ballot will be those non-domestic ratepayers listed on Merton Council's database for each hereditament (business premises) situated in the geographical area of the proposed BID at the date of this Notice.

Each person entitled to vote has one vote for each hereditament occupied or (if unoccupied) owned by him or her in the geographical area of the proposed BID. Some ratepayers may receive more than one vote if they have more than one property.

The Ballot Holder sent a preliminary letter to ratepayers in the proposed BID area on 26 February 2009 to help identify the named persons who should be voting in the ballot. In the absence of any response to that letter naming the voter, the ballot paper will be sent to the national non-domestic rates correspondence address.

Any ratepayer who has not yet notified the Ballot Holder of the name of the person to whom the ballot paper should be sent is encouraged to do so now. An alternative company address may be given where a ballot paper may be sent, provided that address is in the United Kingdom.

4. Issue of ballot papers

Ballot papers will be issued by post on **Wednesday, 1 April 2009** and will be accompanied by a brochure explaining the BID arrangements, the arrangements for the ballot and an envelope for the return of the ballot paper.

5. Close of ballot

The ballot will be taken entirely by post. Ballot papers should be returned as soon as possible after they are received to avoid possible postal delays. To be counted, ballot papers must be returned to the Ballot Holder by close of the ballot at **5pm on Tuesday, 5 May 2009**.

6. Appointing someone else to vote (a proxy)

The person entitled to vote in the BID ballot may appoint someone else to vote on his or her behalf (a proxy) – for example, if that person is going to be away at the time of the ballot or if the address of the person voting is not in the UK. The latest time that a proxy may be appointed is **5pm on Friday, 24 April 2009**. A proxy appointment form is available from Merton Electoral Services.

An application to appoint a proxy must be made in writing to Merton Electoral Services and must:

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

7. Lost ballot papers

If a ballot paper has **not** been received by **Thursday, 30 April 2009** an application may be made to the Ballot Holder at Merton Electoral Services for a replacement, providing evidence of identity.

8. Count

The ballot papers returned will be counted on **Tuesday, 5 May 2009** at Merton Civic Centre following the close of the Ballot at 5.00pm. The result will be announced at 11am on Wednesday, 6 May and will be published on the following websites on that day:

www.merton.gov.uk/voting
www.soloman.co.uk/BID

9. Further details of the BID proposal

Further details are available on the website www.soloman.co.uk/BID or e-mail the Willow Industrial Estate Co-ordinator mauriceoconnell_5@hotmail.com

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