

Statement from Morpeth BID Steering Group

BUSINESSES VOTE NO to a BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT FOR MORPETH

Morpeth BID Steering Board was disappointed with the result of the recent election for a BID in Morpeth but fully respect the 'No' outcome. The BID Board will reflect on the result as, no doubt, will those businesses and partner organisations in the Town.

We know there were mixed views from businesses throughout the engagement process and this BID proposal has probably received more scrutiny than most BIDs due to the failure of the Hexham BID, which occurred during the Morpeth BID consultation and development process. This has had a significant, negative impact on the way the proposal was received. Every effort was made to alter the BID proposal to address the concerns of those smaller businesses, through an extensive engagement process, but it appears that the changes were not enough to gain their support.

We still believe that there are many businesses who want to collaborate and commit resources to make Morpeth an even more successful town and this provides a level of momentum and an opportunity to move forward. Indeed, at a recent meeting held by the Town Council, those representatives from the 'No' Campaign, were clear that they supported most of the aspirations and projects in the Business Plan and Prospectus, but were against a compulsory levy.

The Chamber of Trade, we hope, will continue to work with its limited resource pot and do the best it can to deliver initiatives that benefit the town. However the challenges have been made all too clear and we are now looking to the 'No' Campaigners to deliver their alternative.

Morpeth BID Steering Board

ENDS

Note to newsdesks:

For more information or interviews please contact info@moreinmorpeth.co.uk.

Or call 07538 218342