

PLANNING etc (SCOTLAND) ACT 2006

BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2007

NOTICE OF RENEWAL BALLOT

EAST LoTHIAN FOOD & DRINK

BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

This is to give notice that a ballot is to be held on the renewal of East Lothian Food & Drink Business Improvement District (BID) East Lothian.

The ballot will be conducted entirely by post on behalf of Monica Patterson, Returning Officer, East Lothian Council, by Idox Software Limited ('Idox'), 25D Bishop Street, Londonderry, Northern Ireland, BT48 6PR. Ballot Papers will be sent to those eligible to vote by no later than **Thursday 20 May**, for return to them by no later than **5 pm on Thursday 1 July** (the "day of the ballot").

Who can Vote in the BID Ballot?

Persons eligible to vote in the ballot will be those who, as at Thursday 20 May 2021, were based in the geographical area of the proposed BID that of the East Lothian Council geography, produce or manufacture food and drink products, occupy a premise subject to non-domestic rates and where business sells to other businesses (B2B sales).

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 Idox, at the above address, no later than **5 pm on Monday 20 June 2021**. An application for the appointment of a proxy must be made in writing and must:

- (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 property or properties;
- (c) be signed by the applicant; and
- (d) must contain a statement by the applicant that the proxy, so named, has been consulted and is capable and willing to be appointed.

Alternatively, you can arrange for a ballot paper to be sent to someone else within your business/organisation, so long as that person is located at, either the address of the relevant property itself, within the BID area, or at your principal place of business. You can do this by writing to Idox, at the address below, with the name and address of the person to whom the ballot paper should be sent, with details of their position in your business/organisation.

Lost Ballot Papers

Ballot papers will be sent to those who are eligible to vote by no later than **Thursday 20 May 2021**. If you (or your proxy if you appoint one) have not received your ballot paper by **Tuesday 22 June 2021**, you may apply to Idox for a replacement ballot paper, providing evidence of your identity.

Spoilt Ballot Papers

If you inadvertently spoil your ballot paper in such a manner that it can't be conveniently used, a replacement can be issued, on return of the spoilt one. If, on receipt of the spoilt ballot paper, the ballot holder is satisfied as to the voter's identity, the ballot holder shall issue another ballot paper and the spoilt one will be cancelled.

Count of Ballot Papers

Ballot papers will be counted on Friday 2 July 2021 and the result will be announced by 5 pm the same day. For a BID ballot to be successful, there must be a return rate of at least 25% in respect of the ratepayers and their rateable values; the number of relevant properties of "yes" voters must exceed the number of relevant properties of "no" voters' and the aggregate of the rateable values of relevant properties of the "yes" voters must exceed the aggregate of the rateable value of the "no" voters.

Further Information

The BID arrangements and proposals are described in detail in the BID Business Plan (issued under separate cover by the BID Proposer). Further copies and information are available, on request, from the BID Proposer (East Lothian Food & Drink Ltd, Queen Margaret University, Business Centre, Musselburgh, EH21 6UU T: 07377 721459, e: info@scotlandsfooddrinkcounty.com)

For further information on the ballot, contact Idox Software Limited ('Idox'), 25D Bishop Street, Londonderry, Northern Ireland, BT48 6PR.