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RECONNECTING PEOPLE, IDEAS & COMMUNITIES

A SHORT SUMMARY

One stronger BID, or a different one?

A companion summary of Citrey CIC's critical-friend paper on the Derby BID 2027–2032 proposal. Full paper: v12. · Summary v3.

Ballot closes 5pm, Thursday 12 November 2026 · Response welcomed by 5pm, Monday 9 November

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Citizen's Orrery CIC (Citrey CIC)

Directors: Lauren Thompson, Founder & CEO, Citizen's Orrery CIC aka Citrey CIC · Amit Zala · Devon Daley

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NOVEMBER 2026

ABOUT THIS SUMMARY

Who we are, and why we are responding

Citizen's Orrery CIC (Citrey CIC) is a Derby community interest company based at 6a Sadler Gate, inside the proposed BID area in the Cathedral Quarter part that would join on 1 March 2028.[1,2] Our directors are Lauren Thompson, Founder & CEO, Citizen's Orrery CIC aka Citrey CIC, Amit Zala and Devon Daley. We have an interest in a thriving Sadler Gate and a thriving city centre, and we declare it openly. Our visitor numbers and activities to date are promising early progress; we apply the same distinction between activity and sustained outcomes that we ask of the BID. This paper is not a request for BID funding for Citrey CIC.

Derby city centre levy payers are being asked to vote on a single Derby BID for 2027–2032, bringing together the Cathedral Quarter and St Peters Quarter BIDs and adding Becketwell. The postal ballot closes at **5pm on Thursday 12 November 2026**.[1,3] We ask Derby BID for **specific answers and commitments before the ballot closes**, while leaving room for the BID to respond. We would welcome a written response by **5pm on Monday 9 November 2026**.

We write as a critical friend. We want Derby city centre to thrive, and we want a BID that helps it do so. The full business plan already addresses many of the right themes. Our challenge is about **specificity, measurability and how convincing those commitments are**. This short note summarises our full paper (v12).

> HOW WE READ THE PROPOSAL
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> The Living City™ framework is the intellectual property of Adaptiv. It is applied here by Citrey CIC to explore the conditions shaping Derby's city centre.[9,22] Alongside it we use Place Nutrition™ (following the money and what it builds) and Destination Derbados (culture as regular, local reasons to return).

FINDINGS

What we found, briefly

The picture is mixed, and both sides deserve recognition. Core Area ground-floor vacancy has improved, from 26% in 2022 to 19% in July 2025, and new businesses are opening.[8,13] Yet city-centre vacancy still stands at 18.2% of outlets, against a UK average of 14.1%, and the footfall recovery is "largely skewed by the Derbion".[7]

Year one is a partial year. The budget is £274,000 in 2027/28 because only St Peters Quarter and Becketwell pay in the first year; Cathedral Quarter joins on 1 March 2028. It rises to £583,000 in year two, the first full year with all three areas.[2] Levy payers would benefit from knowing how spend will be split across the three areas, and what Cathedral Quarter receives before it joins.

The University of Derby's Cavendish Building at 1 Agard Street opened in September 2025, and the BID rightly welcomes the students and staff it brings.[2,34] The street schedule includes only part of Agard Street, so it is not clear whether the building is inside the boundary.[2] The University is a valued civic anchor. Its civic contribution is welcome, but it should not be assumed to stand in for paying in, on the same terms as everyone else.

Purple Flag. Derby has retained Purple Flag for 13 years, and that deserves a warm welcome.[1] Purple Flag is an accreditation for how well a centre manages its evening and night-time economy; it is not a measure of how safe people feel.[35] In the BID's own survey, 58% of businesses rate personal safety during the evening and at night as poor or very poor; 81% say the same of drug and drink issues on the streets, and 74% of street begging and rough sleeping.[2] Alongside maintaining the award, we ask how perceptions of safety have changed over time, and what the BID will measure — and improve — next.

Community relationship. The BID already has building blocks to work with, including greening, festivals and partnership activity.[1,2,29] A clear, regular two-way relationship with the people who live in and use the centre is not yet set out in the published plan. We would welcome the BID setting out what arrangements already exist, and how they could be strengthened.

Winter trading. January and February can place additional pressure on businesses. February 2027 still sits with the current BIDs and partners; the first January and February in the new BID's hands would be in 2028.[1]

ASKS

Before the ballot closes: six priorities

To make a substantive response achievable by 9 November, we have grouped the immediate asks into six priorities.

1. **The definitive proposal and supporting evidence.** Say which document levy payers are voting on, explain why the business plan is marked "Working draft", and publish the evidence register listed in its contents.
2. **Survey and Ranger reporting clarifications.** Publish the survey base (number of respondents and response rate), and clarify the Ranger business-visit figure, including how it was compiled and over what period.
3. **Existing data and a timetable for baselines and targets.** Publish the footfall and vacancy data the BIDs already hold, and commit to a date for publishing baselines and targets by area.
4. **Year-one coverage, contributions, boundary and transition.** Explain what Cathedral Quarter receives before it joins, how spend will be split across the three areas, what changes for Cathedral Quarter businesses who vote now but join only in March 2028, whether Derbion's units are within the BID (the street schedule does not name Derbion, and St Peter's Way is limited to "businesses fronting onto St Peter's Street"), and whether the University of Derby's Cavendish Building is within the boundary and what levy the University will pay.[2,3,4]
5. **Immediate priorities for struggling streets and winter trading.** Say how the plan will cushion the additional pressure January and February can place on businesses, including what the current BIDs and partners will do for February 2027, and what will happen from 2028 under the new BID.
6. **Rules for any community money.** Set out how much, the criteria, who decides, and how decisions will be published. Confirm that all proposed spending will be assessed against agreed BID outcomes, with transparent criteria, costs and reporting.

Responses to this summary or the full paper: **hello@citrey.co.uk**. Full paper: *One stronger BID, or a different one?* (Citrey CIC, November 2026, v12).

Citrey CIC

ABOUT CITIZEN'S ORRERY CIC

Citizen's Orrery CIC (Citrey CIC) is a Derby community interest company based at 6a Sadler Gate, in the heart of Derby's historic city centre. We run debates, workshops and learning activities that help people build the confidence to have a say in the decisions that affect them. These are promising early steps; sustained outcomes will take time.

OUR PROJECTS

Place Nutrition™: a framework developed by Lauren Thompson through Roots & Futures and being tested by Citrey CIC in Derby, following the money to show what spending builds locally.

Derby's First Citizen's Assembly

Windrush 2027

The Derby AI Voice Field Guide

Teenage Voices

Youth Advocacy

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