



GUIDANCE NOTES

THE TYPES OF BID BALLOT

March 2024

INTRODUCTION

There is often confusion as to the different types of ballot that may be held in respect of a BID. It is important to understand the differences as each is treated differently according to the BID Regulations. There are 4 different types of ballot outside England and Wales:

01. BID ballot
02. Renewal ballot
03. Re-ballot
04. Alteration ballot

This Guidance Note explains each in turn.

GUIDANCE

To create a BID, the Proposer of the BID Arrangements is required to win a majority at a ballot by a simple majority (more 'yes' votes than 'no' votes) and by a majority of rateable value (more RV attached to the 'yes' votes than the 'no' votes). The ballot period must be for a minimum of 28 days, finishing on a working day at 5pm. Variations to this apply outside England and Wales where turnout thresholds are required and ballot periods are longer. The types of ballot are:

a. BID BALLOT

– this is a ballot held to introduce a new set of Proposals, most commonly considered as a 'new' BID.

b. RENEWAL BALLOT

– this is a continuation, on a like-for-like basis (same BID area, same BID Body, same Levy Rules etc.), of current Arrangements for a further identical term.

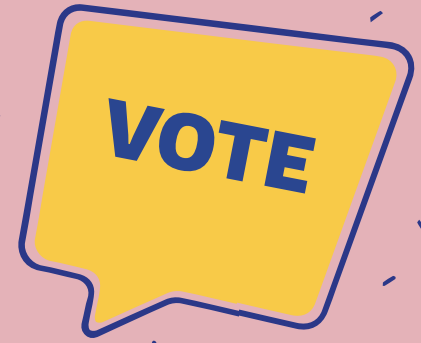
NB There are few actual BID Renewals due to many BIDs and therefore should be run as a "New" BID ballot, making changes to the Arrangements for their next term

c. RE-BALLOT

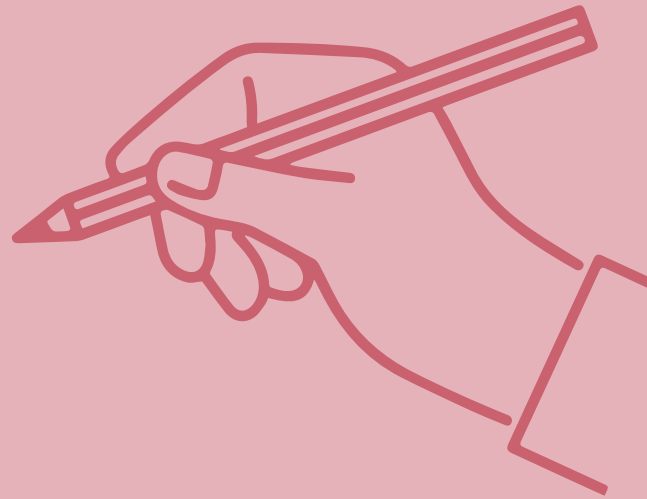
– this is the re-presentation of BID Proposals following the Secretary of State overturning a ballot.

d. ALTERATION BALLOT

– BID Arrangements may be altered where they contain a provision to that effect. No such provision may alter the BID area or the BID levy (if that causes anyone not previously liable to pay, or increases the liability of any party) and any such alteration would require a ballot to effect the change.



TIPS



1

Ensure that when asking the local authority to hold a ballot, you check the Regulations attached to the type of ballot you are requesting.

2

The requirements of a BID Proposal differ depending upon the type of ballot.

3

Many ballots thought of as 'renewals' do not meet the requirements of a 'Renewal ballot' (e.g. there are changes to the area, the levy rate etc.) and, therefore must describe themselves as 'BID ballots' and conform to the Regulations applying to them which are more onerous.

4

Always check the most up-to-date Business Plan Criteria for Business Improvement Districts, published by British BIDs, particularly in respect of the requirements of major levy payers as to the presentation of the BID proposals for each type of ballot.