

BUSINESS

Team making a BID to boost town centre trade

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PLANS to get Stockport town centre designated as a Business Improvement District (BID) are moving forward.

Vision Stockport has announced the appointment of external consultants The Means, which will now be contacting retailers and businesses to explain the benefits the scheme will bring to the town centre and what it involves, as well as finding out what businesses think a BID should provide.

This information will help Vision Stockport 'not only identify the key aspirations and concerns of local retailers and businesses but also gauge the potential support for the BID.'

There are currently more than 200 BIDs running across the UK, and they are

designed to improve the economic performance of an area.

Participating businesses and employers use the funds that are raised through a small levy collected via the business rates system to fund a wide range of initiatives, chosen by the businesses.

Schemes supported in other locations have included additional security, events and festivals, marketing and promotion, local discount schemes, and many more.

The Means' director Giles Semper said: "We are delighted and proud to be working in Stockport. We believe it to be a town with a huge future in both a regional and national context. The BID can ensure businesses take advantage of the new opportunities that will come their way. Our job now is to meet as many business owners and



● The BID team, from left, Imagine FM's Paul Taylor, Alison Bowcott-McGrath from Bo-Concepts, Jean Walker, partner at SAS Daniels, M&S store manager Maxine McDermott and Graeme Vout from Stockport Council

managers as possible, and to find out how a BID could improve Stockport as a commercial centre."

Vision Stockport chair Jean Walker said: "The Means demonstrated a great understanding of Stockport town centre, its

people, its opportunities and its challenges.

"Together with the wealth of experience of the Vision Stockport team we now have a very strong basis to move forward with this very important initiative, focused on the creation

of a town centre that has a brighter and more sustainable future."

Councillor Patrick McAuley, executive member for thriving economy at Stockport Council, added: "I am pleased that Stockport Council is working closely

with Vision Stockport as they look to develop a Stockport town centre Business Improvement District and that we have been able to provide financial support.

"I believe that a Stockport town centre BID is impor-

tant for the success of the town centre and complements work currently taking place through our Investing in Stockport programme to help Stockport grow."

For more information visit visionstockport.org.