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TOM FOULKES TO CHAIR VICTORIA BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

The Victoria Business Improvement District (Victoria BID) – the body working on behalf of 250 businesses to improve the SW1 area - is delighted to announce the appointment of Tom Foulkes as its new Chairman.

Tom Foulkes brings a wealth of business experience and insight to the role of Chairman, gained from years at the top of the engineering and technology industry, following a successful career in the defence sector. His first priority will be to support the extensive promotional work that the Victoria BID is already undertaking on behalf of the business community in SW1.

His is currently the Group Director General of the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) and Deputy Chair of Thomas Telford Ltd. The ICE acts as a qualifying body, a specialist knowledge centre and a resource bank for civil engineers, with Thomas Telford Ltd as its commercial arm.

He succeeds Optimum Chairman Mike Noakes, Victoria BID Chairman from 2010 – 11, following several years as Chairman of Victoria Partnership that helped establish the BID.

Tom Foulkes, Chairman, Victoria BID, said:

“Victoria is close to my heart. Over the last 30 years, I have spent a large part of my working life focused on SW1 and the surrounding area. I am thrilled to see that Victoria is finally starting to fulfil its potential as one of London’s most vibrant business district, thanks in part to an exciting wave of new businesses and developments.

Victoria BID has supported the transformation and is uniquely placed to ensure that the area benefits from political and economic changes such as the localism agenda and the overhaul of the national planning system.

Next year’s Queen’s Diamond Jubilee and London Olympics provide a fantastic opportunity to promote Victoria as a key destination. I will work tirelessly to win support for the BID’s vision for SW1 and ensure that the area is rightfully recognised for its major contribution towards the capital’s prosperity.”

Ruth Duston, Chief Executive, Victoria BID, said:

“Tom is joining us at an exciting and challenging time. In our first year of operation alone we have rolled out 40 projects, helping to make Victoria a safer, more attractive and prosperous place.

Our focus next year will be consolidate and build the BID’s profile, capitalising on Tom’s extensive knowledge and contacts within government and business communities. His chairmanship will enable us to drive forward our role as a collective voice for businesses in SW1 and positively influence the social, economic and policy agenda for Victoria.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Mike for his exceptional contribution to the BID.”

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Notes to the Editor

Victoria Business Improvement District (Victoria BID)

Guided by businesses and organisations based within the SW1 area, the Victoria BID team are shaping Victoria's future development. Victoria BID provides a platform for businesses to work together to improve and enhance the urban context of Victoria through. We have established a full programme of initiatives, services and events to deliver during the first five-year term of the BID.

These will be further complemented by new proposals for regeneration of the area that will help reposition and strengthen Victoria's offer as a central business district over the next decade. Further information can be found at www.inSW1.com
