

JUNE INSIGHTS by CHRIS TURNER

As we approach Midsummer's Day, there is as ever a large amount happening that will have an impact on the BID community over the next few months and years. Much of this is coming from the government taking forward new projects, but some is also coming from BIDs themselves as they develop and become increasingly strategic leaders. As ever I will try to provide links and brief synopses of some of these activities.

As part of the Government's Safer Streets Mission, the Prime Minister has announced details of the [Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee](#), aimed at restoring and strengthening local policing in every community by the end of this Parliament. A key component is restoring confidence in local communities and taking visible action tackling anti-social behaviour (ASB) and increasing the safety of our town centres and high streets. [Yvette Cooper](#) has asked all Police commissioners to go about ensuring every area is maximising all opportunities, including taking forward immediate steps this summer, in partnership with councils, schools, health services, business, transport and community organisations by way of increased town centre patrols and other hotspots based, maximised use of fines, and through Out of Court Resolutions, demonstrating visible action against specific disorder and criminality; maximised use of existing ASB powers, including increased enforcement of breaches of Public Space Protection orders and use of Community Protection Notices; increased security patrols on key transport hubs/routes; transparency and raising awareness with the public to demonstrate activity and progress. This all sounds positive if there are enough police to deliver some major objectives.

The Devolution plans from the government are designed to increase the number of elected mayors and Strategic Authorities. BIDs will need to be very involved with these newly developing strategic authorities and the growth plans from two major existing ones - the West Midlands and Greater London-give clear evidence of the importance and role that these newly emerging authorities will have. The [London Growth Plan](#) specifically mentions BIDs as a key part of the plan and obviously the 75 BIDs in London with a joint spend of

£61million will respond to these plans as they develop. Similarly, the [West Midlands Theory of Growth](#) gives a quite different but exciting picture of economic development in the West Midlands and interestingly and, thus far uniquely, has appointed a BID lead officer as part of the West Midlands Combined Authority. It is clear that as new strategic authorities emerge across the country BIDs will need to be closely engaged with what they are doing and saying.

One emerging development from these strategic plans is that BIDs are already starting to come together to position themselves for the future. In Westminster, ten bids have come together to form a new group “[Westminster BIDs](#)” that will work together to deliver a strong, collective voice for businesses in Westminster; sharing learning and best practice, creating positive change and campaigning to deliver meaningful improvements for everyone within our areas. This exciting project takes further the many existing informal regional groupings of BIDs across the counties and countries of the British Isles that we know are already gathering data on their income generating and strategic roles; some have already come to British BIDs for data and input.

The key story of the month has, of course, been the [Government Spending Review](#), with the usual particularly useful [background briefing](#) document from the House of Commons library. Truly this was a review which pleased many and gave hope and indeed solace to many of the hard-pressed Public Utilities that had been jockeying for some increased funding. Responses to the review have been very encouraging and my colleague [Sophie Alexander](#) from British BIDs has produced some excellent work [summarising](#) where we are with it in the place making industry. Her summary suggests Up to 350 communities to benefit from ‘**Plans for Neighbourhoods**’ A new Growth Mission Fund to unlock long-stalled regeneration projects; £15.6bn for local transport in city regions and £2.3bn outside them; £39bn over 10 years for affordable homes – aiming to deliver 1.5 million homes; Reform of the Treasury’s Green Book to make public investment more place-sensitive. She believes that these announcements show a real shift (potentially) toward valuing place-based regeneration, with the potential to breathe new life into high streets, housing, and transport links across the country. The real challenge lies in who will deliver this work on the

ground; where is the revenue funding to maintain and activate these spaces; do our local systems have the capacity and capability to lead this change. Of course, this is where organisations like Business Improvement Districts, town partnerships, and local-place teams can and should play a vital role. But they need to be resourced, empowered, and included in the conversation – not just expected to fill the gaps.

Places play a vitally significant role in **people's health and wellbeing**. Centre for London partnered with Team London Bridge (TLB) – the BID for the iconic London Bridge area – to explore how to maximise the positive impact of the BID's placemaking on health and wellbeing. They drew on the latest evidence on the role of place in influencing health in, as well as best practice in healthy placemaking, to create a Healthy Placemaking Framework that acts as a simple and accessible map of the place-based determinants of health and wellbeing that TLB could influence to promote health and wellbeing through their work as BID. **A Healthy Placemaking Approach for London Bridge: [The role of Business Improvement Districts in promoting health and wellbeing](#)** is a useful and valuable read.

The way people behave in public space is changing. [Arianna Salazar-Miranda, Edward Glaeser, and their colleagues](#) have ideas about why — [and how we can make cities more equitable and vibrant](#). The team analyse changes in pedestrian behaviour over a 30-year period in four urban public spaces located in New York, Boston, and Philadelphia. They employed computer vision techniques to examine video footage from 1979-80 and 2008-10. Our analysis measures changes in walking speed, lingering behaviour, group sizes, and group formation. They found that the average walking speed has increased by 15%, while the time spent lingering in these spaces has halved across all locations. Although the percentage of pedestrians walking alone remained relatively stable (from 67% to 68%), the frequency of group encounters declined, indicating fewer interactions in public spaces. This shift suggests that urban residents increasingly view streets as thoroughfares rather than as social spaces, which has important implications for the role of public spaces in fostering social engagement.

In a very vital move for the BID industry, the **Metro mayors** are seeking [tourist tax powers](#) to mirror those in Scotland. The group – representing nearly 21 million people across the Liverpool City Region, Greater Manchester, London, the Northeast, the West Midlands, and West Yorkshire – argues that the move would unlock vital funding for tourism and cultural infrastructure, empower regional growth, and reduce dependence on central government funding. In a very robust response, the BIDs in the UK's largest cities have written an [open letter](#) to the Treasury and DCMS. Led by Manchester and Liverpool, the two cities with operating overnight visitor levies, the signatories of the open letter represent the Business Improvement Districts and business communities in Liverpool City Region, Greater Manchester, London, the West Midlands. The letter questions the threat to existing models of visitor levies currently in place in two English cities. Both Manchester and Liverpool have operating visitor levies of £2 and £1 overnight for guests staying in city hotels. They are managed and administered through well-established Accommodation BIDs (ABIDS) representing the city's hotel and serviced accommodation industries.

Our new [Learning Portal](#), which we launched last month, is now operational and **accessible**. The British BIDs Learning Portal has been designed to support the learning and development of **British BIDs members – be sure to check it out if you have not done so already**.

And finally, the usual reminder that as ever, these topics on BIDs and their places are discussed in greater detail in our [Academy Courses](#), the [Certificate in BID Management](#), [Certificate in BID Marketing](#), and the [Diploma in BID Leadership](#). If you would like further information on any of the above, please [get in touch](#).



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