

SPRING REPORT

Business Improvement Districts
in the British Isles

April 2026

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Executive Summary

The total BID community in the British Isles in April 2026 totals 352.

BIDs across the British Isles contribute £184,971,060 each year to their business communities and represent 141,902 business premises.

During the past 12 months during some financial and governmental uncertainty there were major concerns over ballots, which were in the end unfounded; 71 ballots resulted in 65 successful outcomes and six failures [8.4%].

Eleven new BIDs were successful in their ballots during the past year.

The number of BIDs at the development stage is an important measure, as it gives a sense of the supply chain and growth of the sector. There are currently 62 in development, three more than this time last year, although some of those have come to successful ballot, and new ones have emerged. Of these some 29 have consultants appointed, suggesting resources have been allocated

The numbers of business premises or hereditaments are a useful analytical and planning tool for a BIDs, with the average BID having 450, the smallest number at 16 and the largest at 1400. The total number is 141,902.

Interestingly, as individual BIDs mature over their terms, they continue to grow slightly larger, with an increase in their average number of hereditaments.

But again, many BIDs remain small, with an average levy income of £526,983 and the smallest remains £14,639. The largest single BID levy spend is now £6,100,000 per annum.

Ballot turnout in the last twelve months, was on average 42.7% and the ballot results by rateable value were 84.3% and by number 78.5 %; all better data than the previous year.

This is a better performance than the twenty-one-year norm, with an average improvement of some 6.3 percentage points in the RV vote and 3.7 percentage points in the vote by number compared to the

average 22-year results. Turnout was however less, but only by 1.4 percentage points.

The sixteen-year time series data from 2010 show a steady increase in BID numbers, in both income and hereditaments, until the pandemic year of 2021, when there was a reduction by 5 BIDs and a concomitant reduction in hereditaments. This was reversed by the following year, with an increase by eight BIDs, and a slow but steady increase since then to the current number of 352. It is clear that the growth is slowing, as the number of business communities that have the size, rateable value and commitment to support a Business Improvement District adopt one.

Introduction

This collection of data on Business Improvement Districts in the British Isles is part of a regular series. It measures the BIDs environment on 3rd March 2026 and will be followed as usual by the annual National Survey Report in November, which also includes a national survey of more detailed, qualitative information about BIDs.

There can be little doubt that economic uncertainty has had an impact on the places that are the focus of our industry, but BIDs continue to be successful, as demonstrated by both the national ballot results and levy collection rates.

Into the future, we continue to be concerned, but about different issues. The very complex international agenda, the still very unresolved issue of business rates, inflation, energy costs, staff costs and shortages, and local government changes are affecting BIDs, and most are changing fast to reflect those concerns.

As we said a year ago, the major industry change brought about by the recent financial and political challenges has not just been about BIDs, ballots, and the collection of the levy. It continues to be the changes that towns, city centres and out of town trading areas continue to undergo as a very different economy emerges following the growth of online business, e-commerce, working from home, new planning regulations, and people's aspirations for a new way of working.

We have yet to see the full outcome of some of these changes, but many BIDs are already demonstrating a voice and leadership in shaping what this future looks like, whilst delivering to the immediate challenges of reopening and recovery.

The purpose and uses of this, the BIDs Spring Report for April 2026, continue to be multiple. It allows a snapshot to be taken of the BIDs community in the British Isles for policy makers, both local and national; it allows chief executives and boards of BIDs to benchmark themselves against their peers and colleagues, and it allows new and developing BIDs to design their services and operations in the most effective fashion.

This Report uses the quantitative data from the Business Plans of each BID as it comes to ballot; the British BIDs team scan BID's websites, local

papers and social media continually to make sure that our data is as up to date and accurate as possible. Thus, the report corrects and updates data from earlier years as they become public and recognises that there is also a time lag between each BID's ballot and the term start date.

The national picture for BIDs

The total active BIDs community by region and country

The BID community in Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and Ireland in April 2026 totals 352 [five more than last year's 347, and eleven more than the 341 in the spring of 2024].

There is clearly a national and regional spread of BIDs, with the major cities having the highest proportion by levy income, but interestingly not necessarily the highest number of hereditaments. This is most plausibly a reflection of differing rateable values across the countries.

Table 1 BIDs by Country or region, showing hereditaments and income:

Country or Region	Count	Sum of NO OF HEREDITAMENTS	Sum of LEVYINCOME
East Midlands	11	6,062	£5,271,628
East of England	31	12,595	£10,913,664
Greater London	81	25,401	£72,379,997
Ireland	5	6,785	£5,236,949
North East England	7	2,857	£3,483,226
North West England	37	13,216	£20,713,332
Northern Ireland	8	3,395	£2,898,228
Scotland	35	11,494	£9,314,291
South East England	43	17,713	£15,586,506
South West England	32	15,630	£13,428,588
Wales	12	4,728	£3,145,606
West Midlands	33	13,497	£12,509,765
Yorkshire and the Humber	17	8,529	£10,089,280
Grand Total	352	141,902	£184,971,060

Mayoral Combined Authorities

In England there are proposals for an Overnight Visitor Levy in the Mayoral Combined Authorities. There is thus an interest in how this might affect BIDs and the numbers involved and the data on English Mayoral Authorities with BIDs are shown here. Of the 292 English BIDs, 151 are in mayoral combined authorities, some 51%; they will clearly be affected by the proposed Overnight Visitor Levies. Scottish and Welsh BIDs are already working within this legislation; we await the key outcomes.

Table 2 Mayoral Combined Authorities with BIDs:

	BIDs	Levy income	Hereditaments
All English MCA BIDs	151	£118,255,187	69,473
MCA without GLA	70	£46,704,691	44,120
GLA	81	£71,550,496	25,353
% of English BIDs	51%		

Types of BID

There is still much variety in the types of BIDs, with a continuing move away from the original 'crime and grime' retail-led high street BIDs to a more nuanced range of BIDs that reflect their different business communities, with industrial BIDs morphing into mixed area and commercial bodies, and Accommodation BIDs and new larger boundaries becoming evident.

Table 3 BIDs by type, showing numbers, levy spend and hereditaments:

Types of BID	Count	NO OF HEREDITAMENTS	LEVY INCOME
Accommodation	2	161	£8,342,775
Area Bid	24	10,384	£30,792,271
Business Park	13	2,683	£3,331,749
City Centre	39	27,142	£35,704,691
Commercial	2	1,195	£3,960,200
Culture & Commerce	1	450	£1,302,441
Destination	3	2,373	£1,180,000
Food & Drink	1	40	£14,639
Industrial	13	2,811	£2,333,968
Industrial Park	3	378	£418,382
Industrial/Business Parks	1	300	£120,000
Leisure	2	389	£2,477,811
Mixed Area	20	7,220	£21,379,932
Property Owner	6	868	£11,012,659
Retail	1	418	£745,623
Retail & Leisure	2	1,001	£1,097,454
Tourism	7	2,892	£2,271,855
Town Centre	210	79,997	£57,853,227
Town Centre/Tourism	2	1,200	£631,383
Grand Total	352	141,902	£184,971,060

Developing BIDs

The number of BIDs at the development stage is an important measure, as it gives a sense of the supply chain and growth of the sector. There are currently 62 in development, three more than this time last year, although some of those have come to successful ballot, and new ones have emerged. Of these some 29 have consultants appointed, suggesting resources have been allocated

We continue to monitor ballots for developing BIDs and update the industry through our monthly Ballot Watch which is available to members.

Table 4 Current Developing BIDs by Country or Region:

Region or Country	Count
East Midlands	3
East of England	4
Greater London	6
North West England	3
Northern Ireland	2
Scotland	12
South East England	11
South West England	8
Wales	4
West Midlands	6
Yorkshire and the Humber	3
Grand Total	62

Financial data on Business Improvement Districts across the British Isles

The various data for BIDs are shown here to allow BIDs to position themselves against sector benchmarks by way of levy, hereditaments, and income.

Levy % rates for BIDs by term

The average for levy rates has increased very slightly to 1.6% [2025 1.55%] with a small spread between BIDs terms, possibly a reflection of early adopters coming from the higher rateable value areas. The occasional very high levy rate reflects more specialist or industrial BIDs. Anecdotal evidence suggests that the actual BID Levy % is of less interest to local and national businesses than the actual amount that they pay

Table 5 Levy % rates of current BIDs, by term:

Terms	Count	Average BID LEVY	Max BID LEVY	Min BIDLEVY
1ST TERM	54	1.6	2.5	0.02
2ND TERM	105	1.5	2.4	0.01
3RD TERM	110	1.6	2.9	0.80
4TH TERM	63	1.8	6.0	1.00
5TH TERM	19	1.6	3.0	0.80
6TH TERM	1	0.4	0.4	0.40
Grand Total	352	1.6	6.0	0.01

Banded levies and ranges of levy

36 BIDs [10.3%] continue to use a banded approach. Others use a range of different levy payment rates, depending on type of hereditament or amount of RV; 18 BIDs [5.2%] of BIDs do so.

Numbers of hereditaments in BIDs

The numbers of business premises or hereditaments are a useful analytical and planning tool for a BIDs, with the average BID having 450, the smallest number at 16 and the largest at 1400. The total number is 141,902.

Interestingly, as individual BIDs mature over their terms, they continue to grow slightly larger, with an increase in their average number of hereditaments.

Table 6 Numbers of hereditaments in BIDs by term:

Terms	Count	Sum HEREDITAME NTS	Average HEREDITAME NTS	Max HEREDITAME NTS	Min HEREDITAME NTS
1ST TERM	54	16,505	306	1,400	16
2ND TERM	105	39,934	403	1,593	40
3RD TERM	110	45,885	417	965	59
4TH TERM	63	29,661	486	2,500	62
5TH TERM	19	9,292	489	1,083	176
6TH TERM	1	625	625	625	625
Grand Total	352	141,902	403	1,400	16

Again, the variety of BIDs is shown by the spread of hereditament numbers across the different types, with some specialist BIDs such as Accommodation, Food and Drink and Industrial showing some very small numbers, and the smallest BID having 16 levy payers.

Table 7 BIDs Hereditaments by type of BIDs:

Types	Count	Sum HEREDITA MENTS	Average HEREDITA MENTS	Max HEREDITA MENTS	Min HEREDITA MENTS
Accommodation	2	161	81	83	78
Area Bid	24	10,384	433	1,400	16
Business Park	13	2,683	268	766	63
City Centre	39	27,142	696	2,500	300
Commercial	2	1,195	598	820	375
Culture & Commerce	1	450	450	450	450
Destination	3	2,373	791	1,593	280
Food & Drink	1	40	40	40	40
Industrial	13	2,811	234	450	62
Industrial Park	3	378	126	226	60
Industrial/Business Parks	1	300	300	300	300
Leisure	2	389	195	213	176
Mixed Area	20	7,220	361	1,083	63
Property Owner	6	868	174	431	59
Retail	1	418	418	418	418
Retail & Leisure	2	1,001	501	670	331
Tourism	7	2,892	482	1,200	79
Town Centre	210	79,997	386	1,561	67
Town Centre/Tourism	2	1,200	600	750	450
Grand Total	352	141,902	403	1,400	16

Levy income and business investment

Levy income, and thus business investment, is one of the most valuable and varied data sets for BIDs, with the early adopters, primarily in the higher rateable value towns and cities, now into their fourth or fifth terms showing higher average levy incomes and thus investment.

BIDs across the British Isles currently contribute £184,971,060 each year to their business communities and represent 141,902 business premises

But again, many BIDs remain small, with an average levy income of £526,983 [2025: £457,572] and the smallest remains £14,639. The largest single BID levy spend is now £6,100,000 per annum.

Table 8 Levy income and business investment by BIDs by Term:

Terms	Count	Sum of LEVY INCOME	Average LEVY INCOME	Max LEVY INCOME	Min LEVY INCOME
1ST TERM	54	£37,936,285	£702,524	£4,600,000	£34,390
2ND TERM	105	£36,500,130	£347,620	£1,457,131	£14,639
3RD TERM	110	£57,680,526	£524,368	£6,100,000	£37,500
4TH TERM	63	£29,813,712	£480,866	£3,387,025	£55,000
5TH TERM	19	£16,940,407	£891,600	£2,327,017	£151,238
6TH TERM	1	£6,100,000	£6,100,000	£6,100,000	£6,100,000
Grand Total	352	£184,971,060	£526,983	£6,100,000	£14,639

Key Ballot data for BIDs

Ballot data are one of the most useful BIDs benchmarks, with the data suggesting both an improved turnout and better voting figures at each term, as BIDs become more experienced at satisfying their levy payers' needs.

All ballots for all BIDs 2004 - 2026

The first BID ballot was for Kingston First on 16 November 2004, and there have been 1134 ballots over the past twenty-one years as BIDs have grown in number and moved through their various terms. The data suggest that there have been 86 Failures [7.5%] out of the 1134, of which some have gone on to succeed later.

Table 9 Data on all ballots for all BIDs from 2004 onward:

Terms	Count	Average TURNOUT %	Average IN FAVOUR BY NUMBER %	Average IN FAVOUR BY RV %
1ST TERM	425	42.2	73.9	76.3
2ND TERM	309	45.5	75.9	80.3
3RD TERM	201	44.9	82.0	85.5
4TH TERM	85	43.7	83.9	88.4
5TH TERM	21	45.6	87.4	90.8
6TH TERM	1	41.8	98.9	99.5
Alteration Ballot	2	53.0	59.1	60.0
Challenge Upheld	1	31.0	68.0	90.0
Challenged and a rebalot held	1	n/a	51.0	55.0
Successful but void	2	n/a	73.0	79.8
UNSUCCESSFUL	86	48.0	46.3	47.9
Grand Total	1134	44.1	74.8	78.2

Of course, some BIDs have ceased mid-term, and several have not gone to a ballot at the end of their current term. These BIDs are sometimes set up to achieve certain tasks and then cease; others mutate into other types of new BIDs that better reflect the needs of their business communities. In all, 55 BIDs have ceased during their terms or did not go to ballot at the end of their term.

Table 10 BIDs that ceased during or at the end of their terms:

Ceased BIDs	Count
Ceased during 1st term	7
Ceased during 2nd term	2
Ceased during 4th term	4
Ceased end of 1st term	25
Ceased end of 2nd term	8
Ceased end of 3rd term	9
Grand Total	55

Ballot data during the last twelve months

During the past 12 months during some financial and governmental uncertainty there were major concerns over ballots, which were in the end unfounded; 71 ballots resulted in 65 successful outcomes and six failures [8.4%].

Eleven new BIDs were successful in their ballots during the past year.

Table 11 Ballot success data % March 2025 - February 2026:

Term	Count	Average TURNOUT %	Average IN FAVOUR BY NUMBER %	INFAVOUR BY RV %
1ST TERM	11	38.0	78.6	80.8
2ND TERM	5	37.5	83.6	88.5
3RD TERM	27	41.3	79.7	87.2
4TH TERM	10	41.4	86.8	89.1
5TH TERM	9	48.6	84.5	88.9
6TH TERM	1	41.8	98.9	99.5
Alteration Ballot	1	53.0	59.1	60.0
UNSUCCESSFUL	6	56.7	41.2	59.4
Successful but void	1	n/a	75.3	84.0
Grand Total	71	42.7	78.5	84.3

Ballot turnout in the last twelve months, was on average 42.7% [2025: 41.1%] and the ballot results by rateable value were 84.3% [2025:80.4%] and by number 78.5 % [2025:76.5%]; all better data than the previous year.

Despite some people’s concerns, this is a better performance than the twenty-one-year norm, with an average improvement of some 6.3 percentage points in the RV vote and 3.7 percentage points in the vote by number compared to the average 21-year results. Turnout was however less, by 1.4 percentage points.

Outcomes of ballots of the current 352 BIDs

The current 352 BIDs most certainly measure themselves by way of their ballot data, and rightly so. The mean is the most used data measure for each of the key indicators – the % turnout, the % of votes by number and the % of votes by RV. The data suggest overall an improvement in each term of a BIDs by a few percentage points at each ballot.

Table 12 Average ballot data for current BIDs:

BID Term	Count	Average TURNOUT %	Average IN FAVOUR BY RV %	Average IN FAVOUR BY NUMBER %
1ST TERM	54	36.2	78.9	76.5
2ND TERM	105	39.8	81.7	77.1
3RD TERM	110	41.8	86.4	82.7
4TH TERM	63	42.9	87.7	83.2
5TH TERM	19	45.7	90.4	86.8
6TH TERM	1	41.8	99.5	98.9
Grand Total	352	40.8	84.3	80.4

Maxima of ballot data for BID Ballots

BIDs are always interested in who has been the ‘best’ in their ballot. So, the maxima of the measures by BID term are given here: the best turnout for a current BID was 80%, and the best outcomes by RV and by number continues to be 100% and 100% respectively.

Table 13 Maxima of ballot data for current BIDs:

Terms	Count	Max. TURNOUT %	Max IN FAVOUR BY RV %	Max IN FAVOUR BY NUMBER %
1ST TERM	54	79	99.42	99
2ND TERM	105	64.56	99.8	97.9
3RD TERM	110	80	100	100
4TH TERM	63	69	99.7	98
5TH TERM	19	72	99.52	99
6TH TERM	1	41.78	99.45	98.85
Grand Total	352	80	100	100

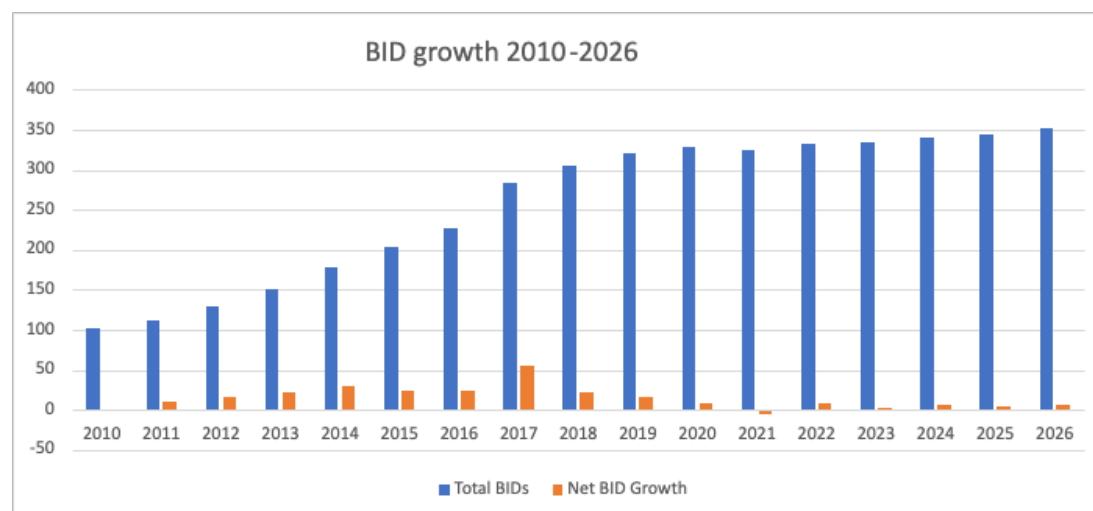
Time series 2010 - 2026

The sixteen-year time series data from 2010 show a steady increase in BID numbers, in both income and hereditaments, until the pandemic year of 2021, when there was a reduction by 5 BIDs and a concomitant reduction in hereditaments. This was reversed by the following year, with an increase by eight BIDs, and a slow but steady increase since then to the current mid-year number of 352. It is clear that the growth is slowing, as the number of business communities that have the size, rateable value and commitment to support a Business Improvement District reach a peak.

Table 14 BID DATA 2010 - 2026:

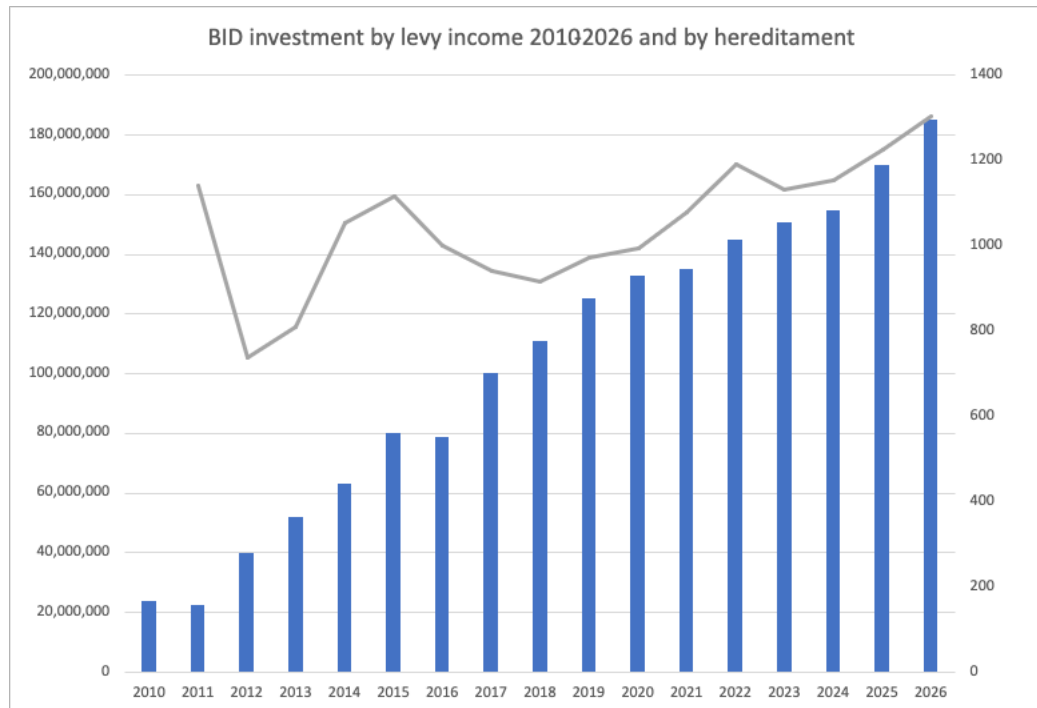
Survey year	Number of BIDs	Growth in BIDs	Total Levy Investment	Total Hereditaments	Investment per hereditament
2010	102		23,483,888		
2011	112	10	22,085,567	19,353	£1,141
2012	129	17	39,883,454	54,110	£737
2013	150	21	51,847,486	64,150	£808
2014	179	29	63,000,000	59,771	£1,054
2015	203	24	80,124,969	71,703	£1,117
2016	227	24	78,659,124	78,549	£1,001
2017	283	56	99,971,741	106,262	£941
2018	305	22	110,575,380	120,735	£916
2019	321	16	125,205,608	128,785	£972
2020	329	8	132,493,286	133,163	£995
2021	324	-5	134,979,983	125,023	£1,080
2022	332	8	144,735,669	121,485	£1,191
2023	335	3	150,316,106	132,962	£1,131
2024	341	6	154,620,538	134,098	£1,153
2025	345	4	169,928,983	138,543	£1,227
2026	352	7	184,971,060	141,902	£1,304

Figure 1 Growth in BID numbers 2010 - 2026:



The levy raised, and then invested back into the business community, per hereditament gives a sense of the average individual business spend in BIDs over the years.

Figure 2 Growth in BID levy spend and spend per hereditament 2010-26:



Conclusion

Business Improvement Districts are growing in number across the British Isles; but the growth is slowing. The ballot outcomes for BIDs have become increasingly positive with the level of BID failure reducing slightly overtime whilst the size and income of individual Business Improvement Districts have grown overtime.