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Business Improvement Districts in the British Isles: THE 19TH ANNUAL BID SURVEY & REPORT 2025

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Business Improvement Districts in the British Isles: The 2025 National Survey

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND KEY HEADLINES

Numbers of BIDs

BID community in Great Britain & Northern Ireland and Ireland totals 345 [341 in the last survey] at the beginning of September 2025, representing 138,543 [2024, 134,098] business hereditaments, investing £169,928,983 [£154,620,538] into their local economies.

This is a net increase of four BIDs, 4,445 business hereditaments and £15,308,445 levy income invested in the British Isles [2024, six BIDs, 1,136 businesses and £1,633,378]; equating to a 9.9% percentage point investment growth over last year.

There continues to be an increasing differentiation amongst BIDs, as different communities and groups of business respond to a changing environment. BIDs in tourism, food and drink, and area-wide BIDs, as well as Business Park, Industrial and Cultural and Commercial BIDs are becoming increasingly evident; as is the emergence and increasing interest in Accommodation BIDs and Property BIDs.

However, it is clear that the initial fast growth has come to an end and a steadier development is now the norm. Each year, as some BIDs fail at ballot, more BIDs come into existence to give a smaller net growth than the number of new BIDs

Ten [2024, 12] new BIDs came into being in the past twelve months since September 1, 2024, with some different types of BIDs evident. This is fewer than previous years, and it suggests that the growth of BIDs is slowing.

The number of new BIDs being developed is a key strategic issue and the story here remains strong. There are currently 69 [2024, 60] BIDs that are in the development stage, with ballots coming up in the next year or so. This is a slight increase on the number that were developing in the last survey, some of last year's survey have come to successful ballot, whilst new developing BIDs have emerged. This suggests a continued enthusiasm and increasing perceived benefit to local business communities.

BID Ballots

There has been a total of 1,109 [2024, 1,057] BID ballots, of which 1,002 have been successful, a success rate of 90.35%. 107 have been unsuccessful, a failure rate of 9.6%. Some BIDs have gone to ballot at least once, and some several times as they continue for further terms. Some BIDs have ceased mid-term, and others have ceased at the end of a term, by not going to ballot. Of the 107 ballots that have failed, 19[18%] have then gone on to a successful ballot.

The analysis of ballot outcomes by term of the current 345 BID's ballots, suggest that success increases slightly with each term, as BID teams get more confident at meeting the needs of their levy payers.

64 [2024, 74 BIDs have come to ballot in the past 12 months, an average of five a month, either new or at various stages of their term, giving a sense of the workload of the national head office levy payers who cast their votes across the whole country.

Ten new BIDs came into being during the past 12 months; the turnout figures were 7.3 percentage points below the total 12-month norm, with the votes in favour and by RV were also below the 12-month norm, at 5.0 and 5.1 percentage points respectively. Overall new first term BIDs perform less well at their first ballots as the more experienced BIDs.

Eight BIDs [2024, 5] failed in their ballot during 2024-2025; across a range of different BID types and with failures by both number and ratable value.

Most local authorities were very supportive at ballot, with most BIDs [55.8%] regarding their local authorities as very helpful, 31.7% were seen as sound and 13.3% were seen as unhelpful. The data suggests a 3.8 percentage point increase in local authorities being perceived as not very helpful.

50% [2024, 57%] of BIDs had problems with ballot papers in their ballot, and the median was some 15% of ballot papers lost, with an upper quartile losing 25%.

Most BIDs [71.4%] seem to be confident that they were able to produce a list of voters from their list of levy payers, although 28.6% were not easily able to do so.

And similarly, most BIDs 63% [2024, 71%] felt that they were able to engage with national levy payers for the ballot. This is a smaller figure than last year so clearly work needs to be done.

The turnout performance for the current 345 BIDs is reasonable, with half of all the current BIDs obtaining a turnout of at least 39.9%, and 25% obtaining a turnout of at least 49.3%. The highest turnout was 100%.

BID Finances

Of the 345 BIDs, 309 [89.5%] were using a % levy rate, with a median at 1.5%. The averages, maxima and minima of levy % across BIDs are narrow and suggests that the issue has become standardised across the industry.

The distribution of hereditaments suggests that half of all BIDs have fewer than 369 [2024, 377; 2023, 385:] hereditaments, the largest number is 2,500 and currently nine BIDs have more than 1,000 hereditaments.

The total number of hereditaments across all BIDs in the survey this year is 138,543 **[**2024**,**134,098**;** 2023, 132,962; 2022, 121,485], an increase of 4,445 from last year.

From the population of 345 active BIDs, the total BID levy income raised and spent across the British Isles is £169,928,983 [2024, £154,620,538; 2023, £150,316,106] an increase of nearly 10% [£15,308,445] over last year. Some of this increase is due to RV changes and some is the growth in BID size and number.

Levy income and expenditure vary widely across the BIDs, with the smallest collecting and spending £14,639 and the largest £4,600,000 per annum.

The measures of the levy income of current BIDs continue to show a wide range, with the median figure – that is half of all the BIDs – having a levy income of £292,485 [2024, £295,500; 2023, £294,278; 2022, £285,691] or less; and 75% of all BIDs having a levy income of £542,387 [2024, £529,554; 2023, £522,034; 2022, £486,556] or less.

There are now 37 BIDs with levy incomes of £1million or over; all are in the major cities, where rateable values and thus income is higher; and the highest levy amount is £4,600,000 [2024, £4,100,000]. Most BIDs [73%] also generate non-levy income from more formal sources, such as entrepreneurial activities, grant income, government funding, or local authority grants.

The median figure for additional external income in a BID is £58,000 [2024, £44,230; 2023, £46,061; 2022, £60,000], and at a total of £22,597,080 an increase of some £420k on last year's £21,758,676

Some 43.8% [2024,40%; 2023, 35%; 2022, 48%; 2021, 51.9%] of the BID industry reported other leveraged investment income by way of projects and government funding as a direct result of their BID activity, although others recognised investment has been achieved but it is very difficult to quantify. It is now very much part of the role of BIDs to work with Town Fund and levelling up applications, but the amounts of money and the time scales are not easy to track. From the Town Funding alone some £3.6 billion is being spent over a five-year period, affecting some 50% of BIDs

The five-year data for all BID income and leveraged investment expenditure is a positive story, with a current very estimated global projection of £351,895,056, showing growth in levy income, additional entrepreneurial income and much increased leveraged inward investment

This year 41.8% [2024, 36%; 2023, 24%] are applying an annual inflation factor, an increase of 5.98 percentage points. Now that inflation is becoming more evident, we expect to see an increase in this factor.

Most BIDs aim to ensure that no levy payment is less than the cost of collection, others keep their threshold at or below the level of the current government Small Business Rate Relief threshold of either £12,000 [59%] or the tapered figure of £15,000 [75%] The median is £10,000.

Many BIDs [43%] also apply a cap to levy payments, protecting some levy payers from larger than normal levy payments, for example, where their properties are disproportionally large compared to others in the BID area.

Most BIDs [47%] opt to give charities and other key players a discount on their levy, although this is becoming less prevalent over time, particularly in relation to discounts on commercially trading charity shops.

From the responses, 10% of BIDs have no collection charge made to them by their local authority. This is a reduction from two years ago year, where some 30% of BIDs were not paying for collection. The median collection costs figure – that which 50% of BIDs are below - is £9,800.

Levy collection rates have been a key issue for many BIDs, the data collected show a better picture than anecdotal evidence would suggest, with a median figure of 95% Levy collection rates and the lowest was 70% collected.

BID Governance and Management

BIDs employed some 981.1 full-time equivalent staff [2024, 1,104; 2023, 944; 2022, 993.58; 2021,1,040], a reduction of some 122 FTE staff. This is clearly a

mixture of responses to budget pressures and possibly some data collection issues.

The median staffing level for a BID is now 2.1, the range is wide, with a high of 18 staff. A number of BIDs are managed by Board members, so have no staffing numbers, and 11% are managed by part-time staff only.

The gender balance amongst BID chief executives and managers, based on simple forename analysis, has moved very strongly, from almost exactly 50:50 male: female in 2019, to 46:54 in 2025

From the survey response, external staff, that is staff working for the BID but not on payroll, are used by 80% BIDs [2024, 80%; 2023, 78%; 2022, 73%; 2021, 60%]; this includes staff working in security, marketing, and general operational activities, including rangers and other staff.

One trend is for BIDs to be fully managed by external consultants, thus saving direct staffing costs and ensuring a wide range of expertise that can be called upon. Some 22% [2024, 14%; 2022,15%; 2021, 20%] of BIDs describe themselves as being fully managed in this fashion and it will be interesting to see if BID Boards continue this trend in the future. The shifts are becoming larger.

The data suggest that there are 2,899 [2024, 2,901: 2023, 2,988] members of BID Boards across the British Isles, whose task is to ensure that each BID is governed according to the normal rules of good corporate governance.

70% of BIDs reported having some form of property ownership involved in their Boards, with a median number of 1 and a maximum of 12; and there are 548 [2022, 522] property owner Board members across the British Isles. This is a flat trend, although there is an increased interest in property owners as key stakeholders in BIDs

Most BIDs also have Local Authority representation on their Boards, reflecting the important relationship between a BID and its local authority; at least 70% of BIDs have Local Authority representation, and there are 262
Local Authority Board members across the industry.

36% of BID Boards have local community representation, such as Civic Trusts or Residents Groups, with a median number of 1 representative and a maximum of 6, with 158 such representatives across the country

The median number of women on BID boards is 4, the highest is 11 and there are 987 women on BID boards across the British Isles out of 2,899 directors.

On the matter of ethnic diversity, the responses identified 270 [2024, 243; 2023, 288; 2022, 213; 2021, 177] black, Asian and minority ethnic directors across the British Isles, with 61% of BIDs having such representation

91% [2023, 92%] of BIDs make their accounts publicly available to their levy payers. Of course, Companies House requires that all registered companies lodge accounts with them.

93% of BIDs have an operating agreement with its local authority, but some still don't have them.

Some 73% [2024, 76%] of BIDs feel that their agreements work well or moderately well; but some 17% feel that they don't, and this clearly is a matter of concern for them and indeed the industry. Others [4%] felt that they were not really used or understood by their local authorities.

Community and strategic matters

36% of BID Boards have local community representation, and 70% have councillor representation

On Devolution and local government reorganisation, not all BIDs will be affected but those that are, are engaging strongly.

The data suggests that 48% [2024, 40%] of BIDs were engaging with ESG issues

44% of BIDs were involved with their local LVEP/DMO in one form or another and expect to see growth in this activity, and the percentage involved has increased slightly [2023, 43%; 2022, 46.15%] since last year. Others were surprised that a LVEP/DMO had not yet evolved in their area and would be looking to stimulate interest. Others found them less than helpful.

Some BIDs are very concerned over the impact of these increasingly relaxed development rights, whilst others saw them as a very positive way of bringing residents back into town centres

Most BIDs 80.4% [2024, 78.4%; 2023, 68.4%) are involved in their Business Crime Reduction Partnerships, Pub and Shop Watch and other local policing projects. This is a 12-percentage point increase on last year and is indicative of the growing importance of BCRPs

The types of involvement vary but the majority of support is around Pub and Shop watch, rangers and wardens, street pastors, policing and PCSOs, radios,

cameras and software packages etc. Many BIDs are also involved in wider projects around taxi marshals, Betfair support, Best Bar None awards etc.

72% of all BIDs are engaged in one or other of the various government community project lines, with some involved in several, although 30% are not expecting to receive any funding. There is a major concern over the future of this funding, much of which has been vital over the past few years.

The purpose of the 19th National Survey 2025

The twelve months since the last survey continue to be turbulent. A change of government has brought about proposed changes in local authority structures, possible business rates improvements, along with a very strong growth agenda, whilst other major concerns continue. Climate change, a war in Ukraine and the Middle East, with a concomitant impact on fuel and food supplies and prices, and a continuing increase in inflation have all had an impact on the business community and thus Business Improvement Districts [BIDs].

Last year the then government indicated that it was considering a review of BID arrangements[1]; this has not taken place but conversations with the Ministry makes it very clear that there is still a desire for every BID to be transparent, accountable, and focused on making their local area better for the people living, working and visiting[2]. The move of the minister[3] for High Street and BIDs to another department as part of re-organisation following the Secretary of State's resignation, and the appointment of three new junior ministers[4] along with a new Minister [5] for the High Street and BIDs, to the ministerial team means that there will be a new learning process in the early part of the next 12 months before any new views on BIDs emerges.

Thus, the purpose and uses of this 19th annual national survey continue to be important. It allows a snapshot to be taken of the BID community in the British Isles for policy makers, both local and more particularly national; it allows chief executives of BIDs to benchmark themselves against their peers and colleagues; it allows Boards of BIDs to both benchmark and identify key performance indicators for their BIDs; it allows levy payers and members of BIDs to ensure that they are getting all the services that they should, and it allows new and developing BIDs to design their services and operations in the most effective fashion.

It is designed to be used by different audiences for different needs; to be dipped into when needed, rather than a continuous piece of text and we hope it gives a sense of continuity to BID colleagues at this difficult time.

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[1] https://www.theyworkforyou.com/lords/?id=2023-07-13a.1973.0

[2] https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/688c6c8ed8da16bcb8469584/backing_your_business_policy_annex.pdf

[3] https://www.gov.uk/government/ministers/minister-of-state--205

[4] https://www.lgcplus.com/politics/lgc-briefing/all-change-at-mhclg-08-09-2025/

[5] https://www.gov.uk/government/people/miatta-fahnbulleh

The previous fifteen reports, from 2010 onward, are available on the British BIDs [Bb] website[6]. The first three reports for 2007, 2008, and 2009 have not been located and we would be very pleased to complete the set.

The data sources and methodology 2025

There are three data sources for this survey: the evidence in the monthly British BIDs Insights and Ballot Watches, the core data for the whole BID industry that British BIDs collects continuously, and a qualitative sample of the BID industry.

The core data for the whole BID industry

The core data for all BIDs across the British Isles are gathered throughout the year by way of detailed news, social media and literature searching, which is used for the monthly British BIDs Ballot Watch.

These are collated and made available on the BID Index [7] on the British BIDs Website. For BIDs coming up to ballot, the business plans are collected and analysed to ensure the data are as accurate as possible. These data have been gathered consistently since this survey began, and the total population is now 1,161 records of individual BIDs and their ballots.

These data sets change regularly, as ballots take place every week, and information is then uploaded as it becomes available, but the survey has tried to bring together as much relevant data as possible at the data collection date of September 1, 2025. Throughout this report, any data from previous year's surveys are provided in the text in [...] for comparative purposes.

A qualitative survey

There was also an individual BID questionnaire, collecting more qualitative data, using the on-line service Alchemer. This was issued by personal email in September 2025 to the 343 managers or chief executives of all the BIDs in the British Isles for whom contact details were available. BIDs were also contacted by email and telephone during the survey to remind them of the deadlines and the value of the survey. The final closing date was October 9th, 2025.

129 [37.6%] BID managers or chief executives provided these further qualitative data by responding to this on-line questionnaire. Although response rates vary slightly in each of the various sections, as BIDs for a variety of reasons, primarily

[6] https://britishbids.info/services/national-bid-survey
[7] https://britishbids.info/services/bid-index

pressure of work, were more or less able to provide full data, we believe that they provide an accurate picture of the state of the BID industry.

The analysis

The report is very consciously data focused, showing the means, medians and distributions of key data sets, providing histograms and pie charts of the relevant data so that the distributions can be seen easily and clearly. For many of the data sets the median – the position mid-way along the data distribution and thus representing the level below which half of all BIDs are positioned - is often the most useful.

Business Improvement Districts: 2024-2025 in Review

British BIDs produces a regular monthly Insight piece that goes to all members and keeps the industry in touch with various policy matters as they emerge. This section of the report brings those policy matters to the fore so that the year can be seen as a whole.

National Policy & Government

Budgets & Spending:

October 2024 Budget introduced major tax rises and spending increases, alongside a consultation on Transforming Business Rates to support high streets and investment.

June 2025 Spending Review promised £39bn for affordable homes, £15bn for transport, and new regeneration funds – signalling a shift toward place-based policy.

Devolution & Local Government Reform:

White Paper proposed new Strategic Authorities with Mayors and widespread unitary authority mergers, which had clear impacts for BIDs in terms of ballots, levy collection, and local authority engagement.

Industrial & Infrastructure Strategy:

Government launched a new Industrial Strategy Advisory Council and an Infrastructure Task Force with an aim: long-term growth and pro-business environment.

Crime & Policing:

Multiple reforms: new Crime and Policing Bill, Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee, Safer Streets Mission, Pegasus scheme, and the first National BCRP Awareness Week (Mar 2025); all of which signalled a tougher stance on retail crime and shop theft, with new offences and stronger police powers.

Other National Issues:

Tourist taxes (Edinburgh, Wales) legislated as alternatives to Accommodation BIDs.

Martyn's Law (Terrorism Protection of Premises Act 2025) passed, impacting event venues and larger premises.

High Streets, Retail & Placemaking

Retail Challenges:

Store closures accelerated: 13,500 in 2024 (37 a day); a further 17,000 expected in 2025.

Around 60 large shopping centres likely to be demolished, 200 more partially.

Vacancy and decline reshaping town centres, fuelling debates on gentrification and community impact.

High Street Renewal:

Research emphasised diverse retail mix, leisure uses, and public spaces as keys to resilience.

New models: repurposing department stores (e.g. Taunton Debenhams, John Lewis rental homes).

Heritage-led renewal: Historic England's High Street Action Zones restored 1,000+ shopfronts.

Community & Place:

Growing focus on placemaking for health & wellbeing (London Bridge Healthy Placemaking Framework).

Projects on vacant upper floors (Aberdeen), waste management (London BIDs), and heritage storytelling (Bermondsey).

Research linked visible decline (empty shops) to political populism.

BID Sector Developments

Growth & Collaboration:

Some BIDs consolidating (e.g. proposed Bristol BID merger, Westminster BIDs coalition).

Increasingly seen as strategic partners in regeneration and local growth.

Ballot Results:

Dozens of successful new term ballots (e.g. Wolverhampton, Paisley, Worcester, Luton, Linlithgow, Solihull).

Some failures (Bedford, Carmarthen, Crawley).

Training & Professional Development:

Expansion of Certificates, Diplomas, Academy courses, and launch of the new British BIDs Learning Portal.

Continued emphasis on standards, accountability, and leadership.

Key Themes of the Year

Several key themes emerged:

Shift from retail-only high streets to multi-purpose community hubs (housing, leisure, culture, services).

Government reform agendas (business rates, devolution, policing, infrastructure) with direct BID implications.

Crime and safety rising as a top priority for businesses and BIDs.

BIDs evolving from local service managers to strategic partners in growth, regeneration, and placemaking.

Economic pressures (shop closures, rate rises, labour costs) continue to strain high streets, but innovation and collaboration offer new opportunities.

Active BIDs in the British Isles September 2025

The BID community in Great Britain & Northern Ireland and Ireland totals 345 [341, in the last survey] at the beginning of September 2025, representing 138,543 [2024,134,098] business hereditaments, investing £169,928,983 [2024, £154,620,538] into their local economies.

This is a net increase of four BIDs, 4,445 business hereditaments and £15,308,445 levy income invested the British Isles [2024, six BIDs, 1,136 businesses and £1,633,378]; a 9.9% percentage point investment growth over last year.

After the Covid-19 pandemic and the current economic recession there were clearly concerns about the survival of BIDs, particularly those coming to ballot following the lockdowns. These fears were unfounded and after a dip during the pandemic year the number of BIDs has increased over pre-pandemic levels.

Geographical spread

BIDs are distributed widely across the five countries of the British Isles; a Google map shows this spread; from Lerwick in the Shetlands to St Ives in Cornwall

Figure 1 Map of BIDs in the British Isles

Types of Business Improvement District

There continues to be an increasing differentiation amongst BIDs, as different communities and groups of business respond to a changing environment. BIDs in tourism, food and drink, and area-wide BIDs, as well as Business Park, Industrial and Cultural and Commercial BIDs are becoming increasingly evident; as is the emergence and increasing interest in Accommodation BIDs and Property BIDs.

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

British BIDs has regular meetings of national groupings of BIDs in Industrial[8] areas which are well attended and very successful in bringing together specific and specialist issues.

[8] https://britishbids.info/industrial-bids-group

Table 1: Types of active BID across the British Isles on September 1, 2025

Type of BID	Count	NO OF HEREDITAMENTS	LEVY INCOME
Accommodation	2	161	£8,342,775
Area Bid	18	7,175	£18,822,391
Business Park	13	2,838	£3,217,089
City Centre	34	23,335	£28,744,427
Commercial	3	1,413	£4,959,457
Culture & Commerce	1	450	£1,302,441
Destination	3	2,373	£1,180,000
Food & Drink	1	40	£14,639
Industrial	15	3,075	£2,615,301
Industrial Park	1	92	£82,000
Industrial/Business Parks	1	300	£120,000
Leisure	2	389	£2,477,811
Mixed Area	21	7,567	£21,529,932
Property Owner	5	795	£8,524,290
Retail	1	418	£745,623
Retail & Leisure	3	1,184	£5,197,454
Tourism	7	3,150	£2,275,410
Town Centre	212	82,618	£59,172,791
Town Centre/Tourism	2	1,170	£605,152
Grand Total	345	138,543	£169,928,983

Countries and regions

Clearly BIDs are local, reflecting the needs, aspirations, and numbers of their local business communities. Nonetheless, it is useful to see the key distributions across the British Isles and the more detailed regional data give some sense of the wide geographical spread of BIDs, and also the very disproportional distribution of the BID levy income.

Table 2: National and regional data for BIDs

COUNTRY or REGION	Number	LEVY INCOME	NO OF HEREDITAMENTS	% of total BID levy
East Midlands	11	£5,129,799	6,071	3.02%
East of England	31	£10,206,064	12,595	6.01%
Greater London	78	£67,002,207	24,609	39.43%
Ireland	5	£5,211,213	7,024	3.07%
North East England	7	£3,483,226	2,857	2.05%
North West England	35	£19,266,913	12,180	11.34%
Northern Ireland	8	£2,923,228	3,761	1.72%
Scotland	34	£6,380,425	10,857	3.75%
South East England	42	£15,240,230	17,512	8.97%
South West England	32	£10,377,321	14,162	6.11%
Wales	12	£3,152,117	4,759	1.85%
West Midlands	33	£12,549,368	13,565	7.39%
Yorkshire and the Humber	17	£9,006,872	8,591	5.30%
Grand Total	345	£169,928,983	138,543	100.00%

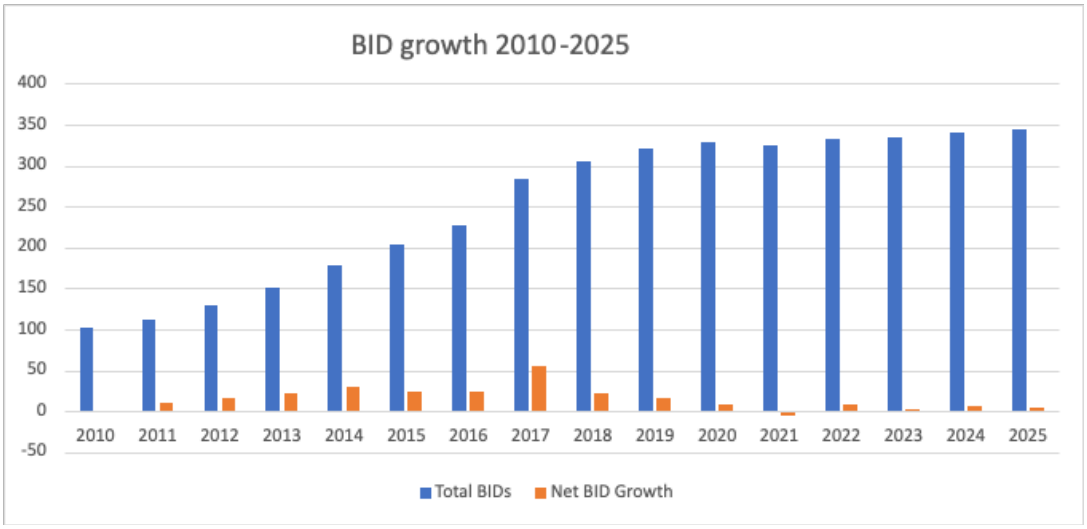
Annual change in BID numbers 2010-2025

The emergence of new BIDs has been impressive since the first BID became operational in 2005. In the past twenty years new BIDs have come into existence in every year except the Covid-19 year of 2021, albeit with a slightly varied annual growth rate, and the data are presented here both as a table and a graph. However, it is clear that the initial fast growth has come to an end and a more steady development is now the norm. Each year, as some BIDs fail at ballot, more BIDs come into existence to give a smaller net growth than the number of new BIDs.

Table 3: Growth of BIDs by number 2010-2025

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

Figure 2: Total number of BIDs and net BID growth 2010-2025



New BIDs 2024-25

Ten [2024, 12] new BIDs came into being in the past twelve months since September 1, 2024, with some different types of BIDs evident. This is fewer than previous years, and it suggests that the growth of BIDs is slowing.

Table 4: New BIDs in 2024-5 by type

Type of new BID	Count
1ST TERM	**10**
Area Bid	4
City Centre	1
Property Owner	1
Town Centre	4

Developing BIDs 2025

The number of new BIDs being developed is a key strategic issue and the story here remains strong. There are currently 69 [2024, 60] BIDs that are in the development stage, with ballots coming up in the next year or so. This is a slight increase on the number that were developing in the last survey, some of last year's survey have come to successful ballot, whilst new developing BIDs have emerged. This suggests a continued enthusiasm and increasing perceived benefit to local business communities.

There is always some complexity in identifying a developing BID; for this work, we have taken notifications from the developing BIDs themselves, and have searched the literature, particularly local newspapers, as widely as possible.

These 69 developing BIDs vary by country and region, with both Scotland and Wales seeing them as key drivers of new development.

Table 5: Developing BIDs by Country and Region

Region or Country	Count
East Midlands	4
East of England	4
Greater London	9
North West England	5
Northern Ireland	2
Scotland	13
South East England	12
South West England	7
Wales	4
West Midlands	6
Yorkshire and the Humber	3
Grand Total	**69**

BID Loan Fund: Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (DLUHC) 2013-2019

We include this section because, although now historical, we are keen to keep it in the eye of the Ministry of Housing, Community and Local Government. The BID Loan Fund was an initiative established in 2013 to assist with the development of new BIDs in town and city BIDs in England. It ceased in 2019 and is currently not available, although British BIDs are pressing for a renewal and the scheme was still being reviewed by the previous Department.

The number of loans that were awarded was 33 and the amount of loans granted was £1,086,135 in total. The scheme was administered on behalf of the then Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) by British BIDs through the National BIDs Advisory Board. Funding methods were also available in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, under different funding mechanisms. Upon a successful ballot outcome, loans were repaid from levy receipts and, as repayments were made, further tranches of loans could be made available. Thus, over the six years 11 tranches were allocated, and many current successful BIDs owe their startup to the loan fund.

Ballot matters

All Ballots and outcomes 2004-2025

Under the Local Government Act 2003 Part 4[9] and the appropriate Regulations in England[10], Scotland[11], Wales[12], Northern Ireland[13], and the Irish Republic [14], BIDs are established by ballots, normally quinquennial. In England and Wales each BID must gain a simple majority of the votes cast, as well as a majority of the rateable values [RV] of all those votes cast. The ballot criteria in Scotland and Northern Ireland require four criteria to be achieved; the turnout must be greater than 25% by both rateable value and number of voters, and approval must be greater than 50% by ballot and RV.

The relevant local authority, or its nominated agent, runs the ballot. In order to continue beyond each term, a further ballot is also required, normally, nowadays, every five years. Thus, with 345 BIDs, there will be some 69 ballots a year, an average of just over five per month. Most ballots tend to take place in the spring and the autumn as they are often timed to fit in with the local authority electoral cycle or the start of the financial year.

All Ballots all BIDs 2004 – 2025

The data on Ballots and their outcomes are always complex to map, but since the original legislation in 2004, and the first ballot in November 2004, our data suggest that there has been a total of 1,109 [2024, 1,057] BID ballots, of which 1,002 have been successful, a success rate of 90.35%. 107 have been unsuccessful, a failure rate of 9.6%. Some BIDs have gone to ballot at least once, and some several times as they continue for further terms. Some BIDs have ceased mid-term, and others have ceased at the end of a term, by not going to ballot. Of the 107 ballots that have failed, 19[18%] have then gone on to a successful ballot.

[9] https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2003/26/part/4
[10] https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2004/2443/contents/made
[11] https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2007/202/contents/made
[12] https://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2005/1312/contents/made
[13] https://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisr/2014/143/contents/made
[14] https://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2006/act/42/section/6/enacted/en/html

Table 6: All BIDs ballot outcomes 2004-2025 showing outcomes by %

	Count	% TURNOUT	% IN FAVOUR BY NUMBER	% IN FAVOUR BY RV
1ST TERM	419	42.3	73.8	76.2
2ND TERM	304	45.5	76.1	80.4
3RD TERM	182	45.4	82.3	85.3
4TH TERM	77	44.2	83.9	88.5
5TH TERM	13	46.0	90.0	92.5
Alteration Ballot	2	53.0	59.1	60.0
Challenge Upheld	1	31.0	68.0	90.0
Challenged and a reballot held	1		51.0	55.0
UNSUCCESSFUL	107	46.0	46.1	47.9
Successful but void	2		73.0	79.8
Ballot suspended due to COVID-19	1			
Grand Total	**1,109**	**44.2**	**74.1**	**77.4**

Ballots for Current BIDs 2025

The analysis of ballot outcomes by term of current 345 BID's ballots suggest that success increases slightly with each term, as BID teams get more confident at meeting the needs of their levy payers.

However, the data for the current 345 BIDs, show that whilst the ballot outcomes by number are 6.6 and by RV are 6.8 percentage points above the 20-year averages, the turnout is 3.4 percentage points below this long-term norm, reflecting ***inter alia*** issues over the past five years with postal delivery of ballot papers, Covid and working from home.

Table 7: Ballot data for all the current 345 BIDs, averaged by term

BID Term	Count	% TURNOUT	% IN FAVOUR BY NUMBER	% IN FAVOUR BY RV
1ST TERM	51	36.3	77.3	79.8
2ND TERM	117	39.9	77.4	82.0
3RD TERM	102	42.1	83.0	85.6
4TH TERM	62	42.8	83.9	88.1
5TH TERM	13	46.0	90.0	92.5
Grand Total	**345**	**40.8**	**80.7**	**84.2**

Ballots during the past twelve months 2024-5

64 [2024, 74] BIDs have come to ballot in the past 12 months, an average of five a month, either new or at various stages of their term, giving a sense of the workload of the national head office levy payers who cast their votes across the whole country.

Table 8: BIDs which have come to ballot in the last 12 months.

Ballot outcomes	Count	% TURNOUT	% IN FAVOUR BY NUMBER	% IN FAVOUR BY RV
1ST TERM	**10**	**36.0**	**72.4**	**76.7**
2ND TERM	**14**	**40.8**	**84.1**	**86.2**
3RD TERM	**20**	**43.0**	**85.0**	**89.3**
4TH TERM	**5**	**51.3**	**93.9**	**95.1**
5TH TERM	**5**	**50.9**	**91.8**	**94.5**
Alteration Ballot	**1**	**53.0**	**59.1**	**60.0**
Successful but void	**1**		**75.3**	**84.0**
UNSUCCESSFUL	**8**	**44.2**	**37.5**	**50.0**
Grand Total	**64**	**43.3**	**77.4**	**81.8**

The ballot data for many BIDs, particularly those in their fourth and fifth terms give a very positive picture of success – approval ratings of 98% and 99% by both number and rateable value are very positive.

Compared to the 21 year grand totals, the turnout in the past 12 months has been 0.9 percentage points lower but votes by number and rateable value have been 3.3 and 4.4 percentage points higher. This suggests that overtime BIDs are performing better at ballots.

New BIDs ballot data 2024-5

Ten new BIDs came into being during the past 12 months; the turnout figures were 7.3 percentage points below the total 12-month norm, with the votes in favour and by RV were also below the 12-month norm, at 5.0 and 5.1 percentage points respectively. Overall new first term BIDs perform less well at their first ballots as the more experienced BIDs.

Table 9: New BIDs Ballot data 2024-5

Type of new BID	Count	% TURNOUT	% IN FAVOUR BY NUMBER	% IN FAVOUR BY RV
Area Bid	4	41.2	69.5	80.7
City Centre	1	12.0	67.8	73.3
Property Owner	1	55.0	99.0	99.0
Town Centre	4	30.7	69.8	67.9
ALL NEW BIDs	**10**	**36.0**	**72.4**	**76.7**

Failed BIDs last twelve months 2024-5

Eight BIDs [2024, 5] failed in their ballot during 2024-2025; across a range of different BID types and with failures by both number and ratable value.

This is a failure rate of 12.5% [2024, 6.7%]; higher than the 18-year average of 9.6%,

Table 10: Failed ballots 2024-2025

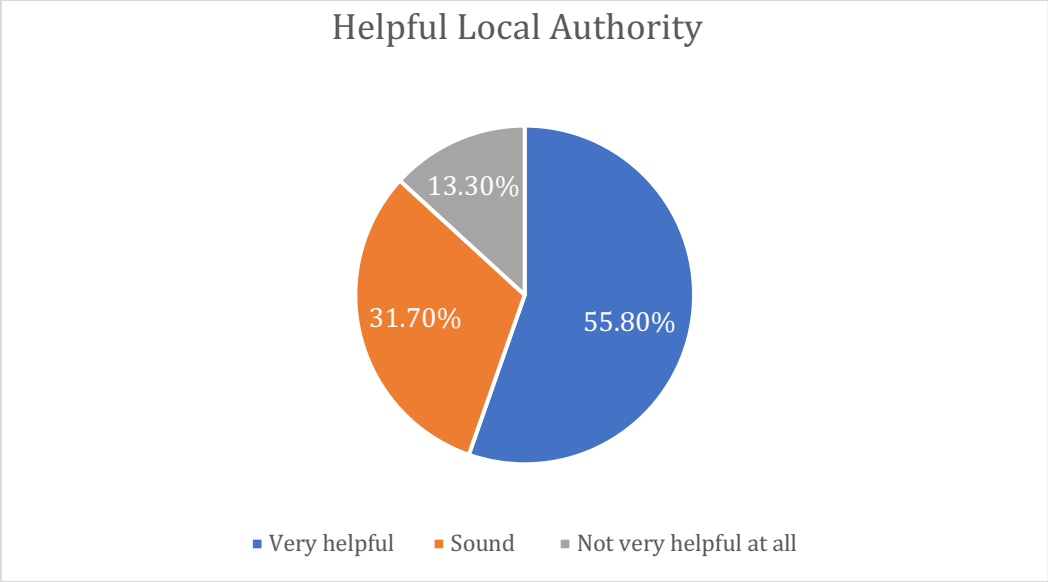
Type of BIDs	Count	% TURNOUT	% IN FAVOUR BY NUMBER	% IN FAVOUR BY RV
UNSUCCESSFUL	**8**	**44.2**	**37.5**	**50.0**
Area Bid	1		52.5	46.9
City Centre	1	34.0	47.7	73.5
Industrial	1	41.6	32.5	20.4
Tourism	1	57.6	25.4	76.5
Town Centre	4	44.0	35.6	45.7

Local Authority support in ballots

Local authorities are vital in the role that BIDs play; under the Local Government Act of 2003, they collect the BID levy, they enforce the BID levy collection and they manage and arrange BID ballots. BIDs were asked to review how they

perceived the level of support from their local authorities in their ballots. Most local authorities were very supportive at ballot, with most BIDs [55.8%] regarding their local authorities as very helpful, 31.7% were seen as sound and 13.3% were seen as unhelpful. The data suggests a 3.8 percentage point increase in Local authorities being perceived as not very helpful.

Figure 3 Perceived local authority support in the ballot



Ballot papers

BIDs were asked if they had problems with ballot papers in their ballot. 50% [2024, 57%] of BIDs had problems with ballot papers in their ballot, and the median was some 15% of ballot papers lost, with an upper quartile losing 25%.

Figure 4 Ballot paper problems

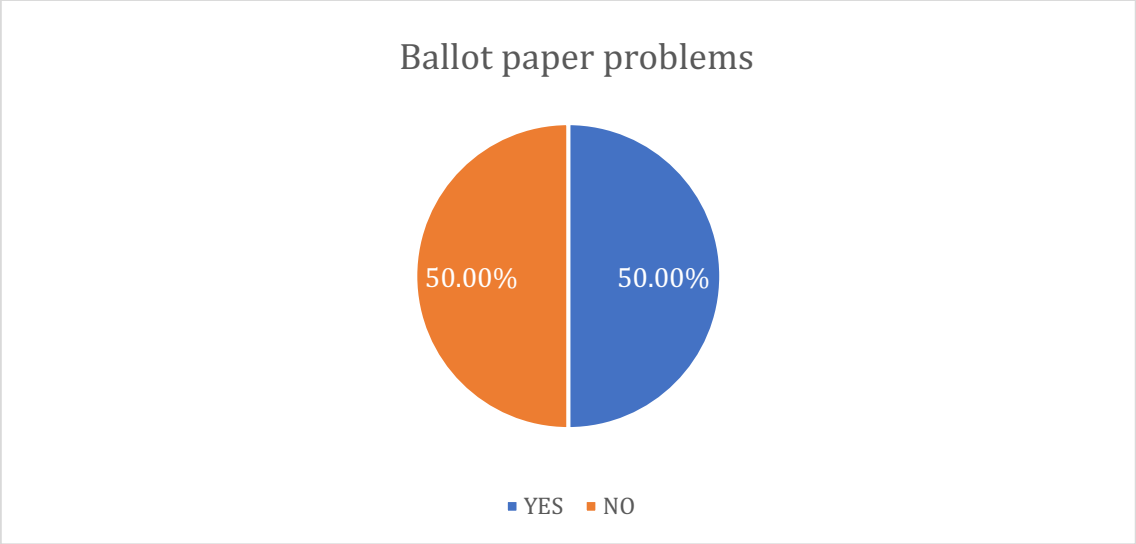


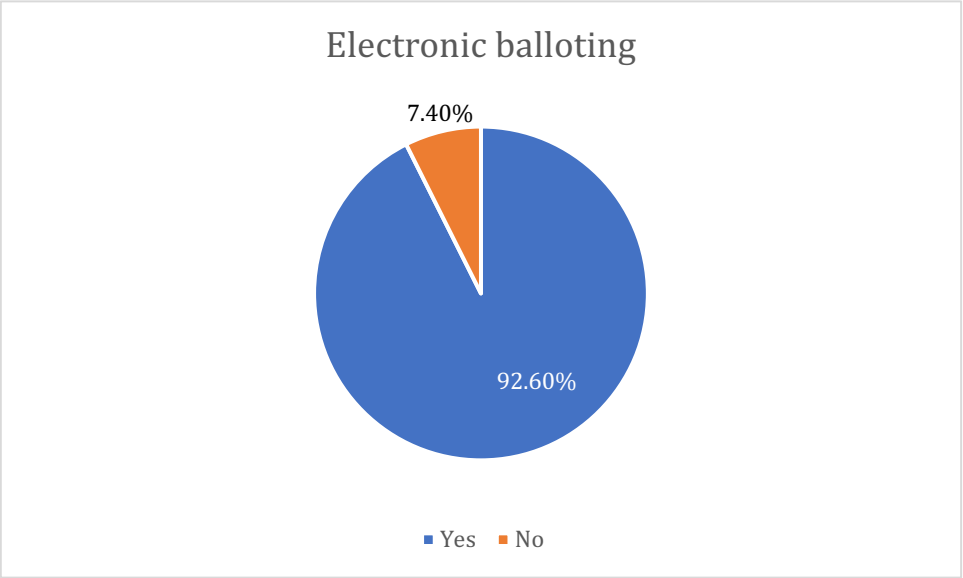
Table 11 Estimated lost ballot papers in ballots this year

Measure	%
Lowest	0
Bottom Quartile	10
Median	15
Upper Quartile	20

Electronic Balloting

We are working with the Ministry to explore the use of electronic balloting as a solution to many of these ballot issues. 93% of BIDs believe that this would be helpful.

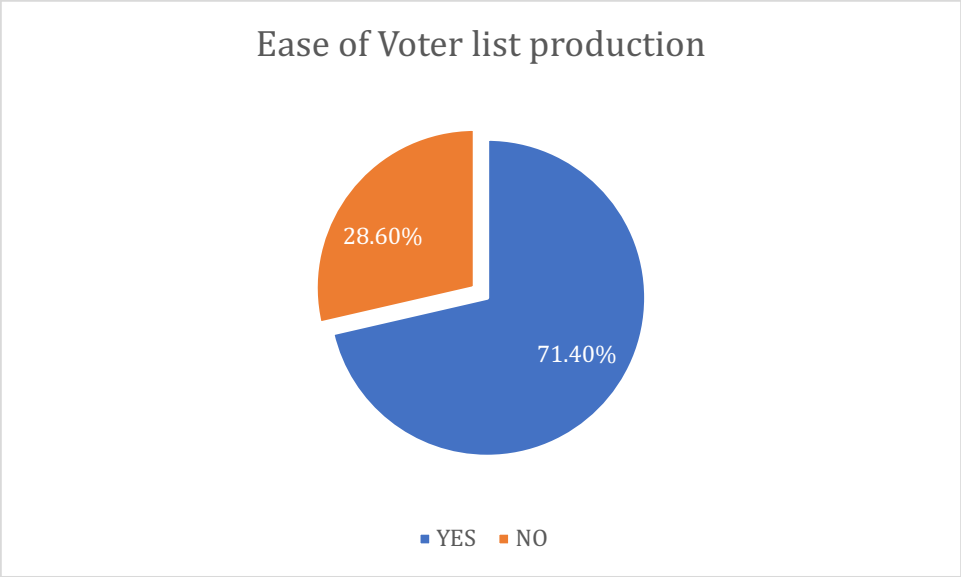
Figure 5 Electronic balloting



Obtaining voter data

Most BIDs [71.4%] seem to be confident that they were able to produce a list of voters from their list of levy payers, although 28.6% were not easily able to do so.

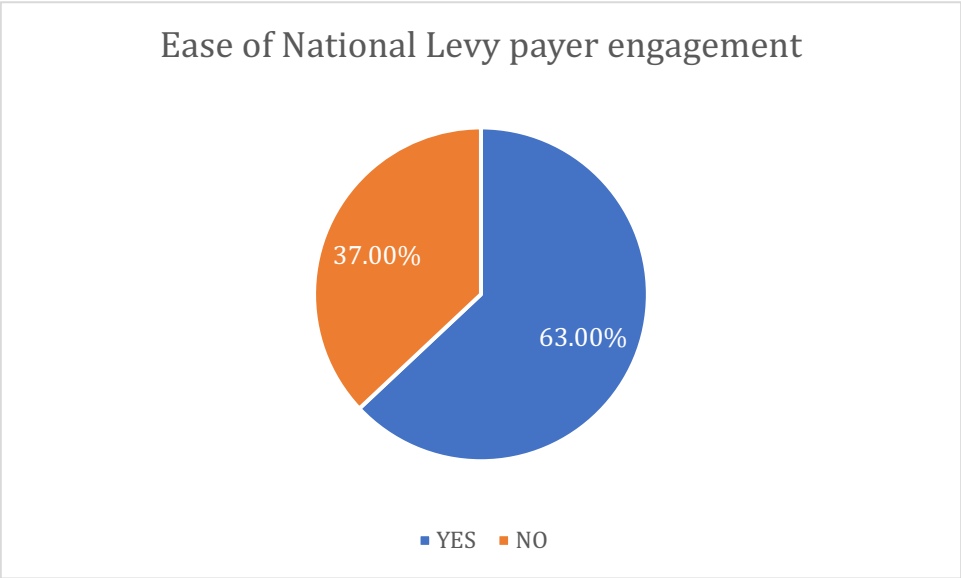
Figure 6 Ease of producing voter lists



Engaging with National levy payers

And similarly, most BIDs 63% [2024, 71%] felt that they were able to engage with national levy payers for the ballot. This is a smaller figure than last year so clearly work needs to be done.

Figure 7 Ease of engaging with national levy payers.



Ballot turnout for all current BIDs

A key performance measure for BIDs at ballot is the % turnout, with local and national levy payers keen to ensure transparency and accountability. Whilst the average turnout for all ballots over the past 21 years is 44.4%, analysis of the turnouts for the current 345 live BIDs allows a more granular picture to emerge.

The turnout performance for the current 345 BIDs is reasonable, with half of all the current BIDs obtaining a turnout of at least 39.9%, and 25% obtaining a turnout of at least 49.3%. The highest turnout was 100%.

As a national comparison, the turnout for the English Mayoral elections in 2021 was 26%, similar to the turnout of the other metro-mayor elections held in 2022[15]. The average turnout in local elections in England in 2023 was 32%[16]. The average turnout for BIDs is thus some 8 percentage points better than English local authority elections.

One key factor in this is the number of hereditaments in a BID, along with the decisions on thresholds that each BID can make.

Table 12: Ballot measures % for all 345 current BIDs

Ballot measure	% TURNOUT	% IN FAVOUR BY RV	% IN FAVOUR BY NUMBER
Lower Quartile	32.6	76.4	74.3
Median	39.9	87.0	81.6
Upper Quartile	48.3	94.0	90.1
Highest	82.0	100.0	100.0

Most successful ballots 2004-2025

Some outcomes are truly excellent, with some very high figures for all three performance indicators. This table shows the averaged maximum results for the three key performance measures over the past 21 years. Interestingly, as ballot performance improves over terms, turnout reduces, possibly the result of increased confidence and an assumption of a positive outcome.

[15] https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-9545/
[16] https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/research-reports-and-data/our-reports-and-data-past-elections-and-referendums/report-may-2023-local-elections-england

Table 13: The 'Maximum' ballot data for any BID 2004-2025

	Count	Max TURNOUT %	Max IN FAVOUR BY NUMBER %	Max IN FAVOUR BY RV %
1ST TERM	419	88.0	99.0	99.4
2ND TERM	304	83.9	98.6	99.8
3RD TERM	182	80.0	100.0	100.0
4TH TERM	77	69.0	98.0	99.5
5TH TERM	13	72.0	99.5	99.7
Alteration Ballot	2	53.0	59.1	60.0
Challenge Upheld	1	31.0	68.0	90.0
Challenged and a reballot held	1		51.0	55.0
UNSUCCESSFUL	107	81.0	84.0	82.2
Successful but void	2		75.3	84.0
Ballot suspended due to COVID-19	1			
Grand Total	**1109**	**88.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

Failed BID ballots 2004-2025

107 BIDs have failed in their ballots over twenty years, 9.6% of all ballots held. Clearly, those which failed did not gather enough votes either by number and/or by RV. Some 20% of these ballot failures went on to succeed.

Table 14: Failed BIDs at ballot 2004-2025

Row Labels	Count	% TURNOUT	% IN FAVOUR BY NUMBER	% IN FAVOUR BY RV
Accommodation	1	62.9	27.3	24.5
Area Bid	4	50.4	46.0	48.1
City Centre	1	34.0	47.7	73.5
Destination	3	36.9	43.8	43.1
Industrial	9	64.8	43.2	37.9
Retail & Leisure	1	36.0	51.0	47.0
Retail & Tourism	1	59.0	44.6	75.8
Tourism	3	62.5	36.8	58.8
Town Centre	84	43.3	46.9	48.0
Grand Total	**107**	**46.0**	**46.1**	**47.9**

Financial Matters

There are a range of financial matters that are vital to BIDs. This section presents data on all of them in turn.

Levy Rate % for BIDs in 2025

The BID levy rate is, most usually, the multiplier of the non-domestic rateable value by which the levy amount is worked out and is therefore an important issue for BIDs and their members. This does not apply in Scotland or Ireland, where the legislation is different and more flexible. The Industry Criteria ask that up to 1.5% is the expected norm, with some allowances made for up to 2% in exceptional circumstances or smaller locations where rateable values are lower and therefore require a higher multiplier to achieve a viable budget.

From the current data, of 345 BIDs, 309 [89.5%] were using a % levy rate, with a median at 1.5%. The averages, maxima and minima of levy % across BIDs are narrow and suggests that the issue has become standardised across the industry with most exceptions being small industrial BIDs. 36 BIDs [10.5%] use a banded approach and 16 [4.6%] use a variable approach.

Table 15: % Levy rates of 345 current BIDs by Term

CURRENT TERM	Count	Average BID LEVY %
1ST TERM	51	1.6
2ND TERM	117	1.5
3RD TERM	102	1.6
4TH TERM	62	1.7
5TH TERM	13	1.5
Grand Total	**345**	**1.6**

Again, the spread and deviation of levy rates show a median of 1.5%, with the largest at 6%, and 7 BIDs with levy rate of greater than 2%. The larger RVs in London have enabled BIDs there to use lower % levy rates.

Table 16: Range of levy % across 345 current BIDs

BID Levy	
Lowest	0.009
Lower quartile	1.3
Median	1.5
Upper Quartile	1.8
Highest	6.0

Hereditaments

Hereditaments are those properties or assets owned by business levy payers or voters within the BID area and listed on the non-domestic rating list.

The distribution of hereditaments suggests that half of all BIDs have fewer than 369 [2024; 377; 2023, 385] hereditaments, the largest number is 2,500 and currently nine BIDs have more than 1,000 hereditaments.

Table 17: The varying numbers of Hereditaments in current BIDs

Hereditaments	
Lowest	40
Lower quartile	250
Median	369
Upper Quartile	500
Highest	2,500

Different types of BIDs by hereditament, spend and %

Table 18: Distribution of hereditaments and spend across different types of BIDs

Type	Count	NO OF HEREDITAMENTS	LEVY INCOME	% of Total
Accommodation	2	161	£8,342,775	4.91%
Area Bid	18	7,175	£18,822,391	11.08%
Business Park	13	2,838	£3,217,089	1.89%
City Centre	34	23,335	£28,744,427	16.92%
Commercial	3	1,413	£4,959,457	2.92%
Culture & Commerce	1	450	£1,302,441	0.77%
Destination	3	2,373	£1,180,000	0.69%
Food & Drink	1	40	£14,639	0.01%
Industrial	15	3,075	£2,615,301	1.54%
Industrial Park	1	92	£82,000	0.05%
Industrial/Business Parks	1	300	£120,000	0.07%
Leisure	2	389	£2,477,811	1.46%
Mixed Area	21	7,567	£21,529,932	12.67%
Property Owner	5	795	£8,524,290	5.02%
Retail	1	418	£745,623	0.44%
Retail & Leisure	3	1,184	£5,197,454	3.06%
Tourism	7	3,150	£2,275,410	1.34%
Town Centre	212	82,618	£59,172,791	34.82%
Town Centre/Tourism	2	1,170	£605,152	0.36%
Grand Total	**345**	**138,543**	**£169,928,983**	100.00%

Regional distribution of BIDs by hereditament, spend and %

The regional distribution of BIDs and hereditaments is becoming strategically important, as governments and administrations try to address the issues of high street decline and levelling up, and thus see BIDs as very much part of the answer.

Table 19: Distribution of BIDs, hereditaments, £ spent by region and %

REGION	Count	LEVY INCOME	NO OF HEREDITAMENTS	% of total national levy spend
East Midlands	11	£5,129,799	6,071	3.02%
East of England	31	£10,206,064	12,595	6.01%
Greater London	78	£67,002,207	24,609	39.43%
Ireland	5	£5,211,213	7,024	3.07%
North East England	7	£3,483,226	2,857	2.05%
North West England	35	£19,266,913	12,180	11.34%
Northern Ireland	8	£2,923,228	3,761	1.72%
Scotland	34	£6,380,425	10,857	3.75%
South East England	42	£15,240,230	17,512	8.97%
South West England	32	£10,377,321	14,162	6.11%
Wales	12	£3,152,117	4,759	1.85%
West Midlands	33	£12,549,368	13,565	7.39%
Yorkshire and the Humber	17	£9,006,872	8,591	5.30%
Grand Total	**345**	**£169,928,983**	**138,543**	100.00%

Growth of BIDs

The total number of hereditaments across all BIDs in the survey this year is 138,543 **[**2024**,** 134,098**;** 2023, 132,962; 2022, 121,485], an increase of 4,445 from last year.

Figure 8 BID Growth 2010-2025

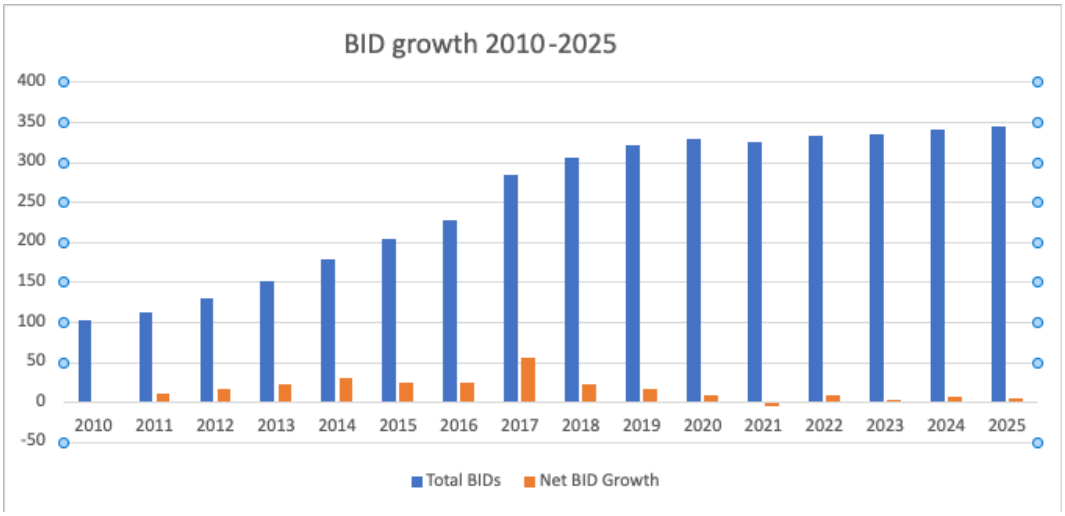
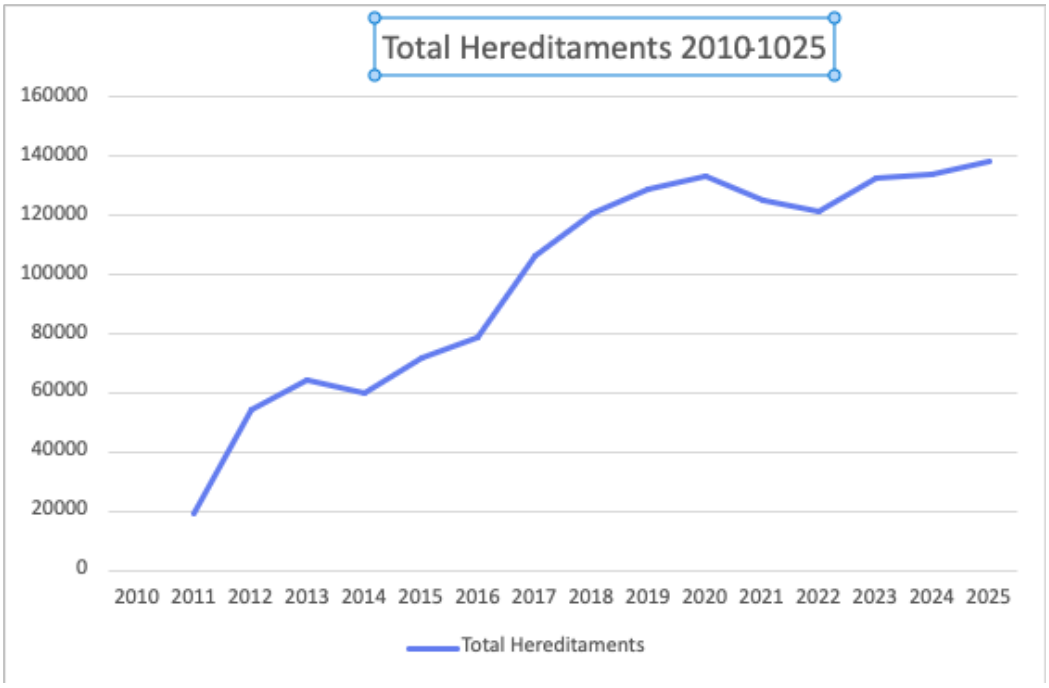


Figure 9 Annual growth of hereditaments over past 14 years



Economic impact of BIDs

BIDs are about economic impact; improving their business districts so that businesses can perform better. Thus, the amount of money they invest is an important signifier and that amount, which is now considerable, has grown over time and by business. The data show a steady growth in the total BID investment from levy income over the past 15 years, but with some variation in the average amount per hereditament over the same period. It is possible that this variation

per hereditament relates to a mixture of BID boundary changes, BIDs lifting their payment thresholds as they increasingly use the small business rates relief figure, growth in the size of BIDs, and improved data collection.

Table 20 BID Levy spending over time 2010-2025

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
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2016	227	24	£78,659,124	78,549	£1,001
2017	283	56	£99,971,741	106,262	£941
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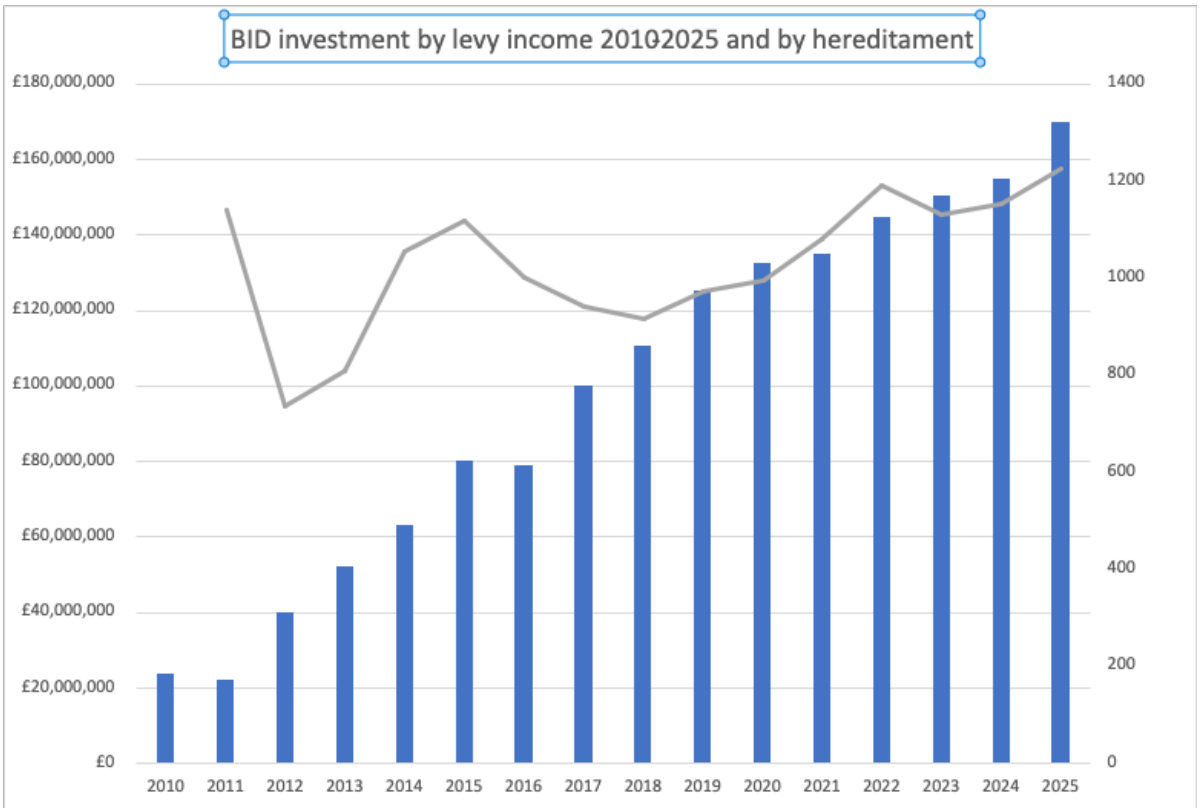
2019	321	16	£125,205,608	128,785	£972
2020	329	8	£132,493,286	133,163	£995
2021	324	-5	£134,979,983	125,023	£1,080
2022	332	8	£144,735,669	121,485	£1,191
2023	335	3	£150,316,106	132,962	£1,131
2024	341	6	£154,620,538	134,098	£1,153
2025	345	4	£169,928,983	138,543	£1,227

Figure 10 Total BID investment from levy income 2010-2024 and by hereditament



Levy income and expenditure

The BID levy income - which is then spent back in the local business community - is the income collected directly via the mandatory BID levy and does not include any additional income.

From the population of 345 active BIDs, the total BID levy income raised and spent across the British Isles is £169,928,983 [2024, £154,620,538; 2023, £150,316,106] an increase of nearly 10% [£15,308,445] over last year. Some of this increase is due to RV changes and some is the growth in BID size and number.

Interestingly, the income per hereditament over time has fluctuated. There may be a number of reasons for this. Firstly, the RV changes and revaluations over the past few years have resulted in both regional and typological levy income changes; secondly, as individual BIDs have become more tactical in their ballot and governance planning, by way of higher thresholds and capped levy income, the income per hereditament may change at the national level.

Levy income and expenditure by term

Levy income and expenditure vary widely across the BIDs, with the smallest collecting and spending £14,639 and the largest £4,600,000 per annum.

Apart from the 2020 Covid year[17], there was a clear and steady growth in the number of BIDs over the past ten years, with a concomitant increase in hereditaments and thus the total levy income and expenditure,

Table 21: Measures of levy income and expenditure by term

CURRENT TERM	Count	LEVY INCOME	NO OF HEREDITAMENTS	Average LEVY INCOME	Max LEVY INCOME	Min LEVY INCOME
1ST TERM	51	£30,868,904	13,560	£605,273	£4,600,000	£34,390
2ND TERM	117	£45,091,726	4,7045	£385,399	£4,100,000	£14,639
3RD TERM	102	£47,153,231	41,659	£462,287	£3,754,452	£37,500
4TH TERM	62	£29,252,156	29,428	£487,536	£3,387,025	£55,000
5TH TERM	13	£17,562,966	6,851	£1,350,997	£4,100,000	£391,000
Grand Total	**345**	**£169,928,983**	**138,543**	**£495,420**	**£4,600,000**	**£14,639**

The measures of the levy income of current BIDs continue to show a wide range, with the median figure – that is half of all the BIDs – having a levy income of £292,485 [2024,£295,500; 2023,£294,278; 2022,£285,691] or less; and 75% of all BIDs having a levy income of £542,387 [2024, £529,554; 2023, £522,034; 2022, £486,556] or less.

Table 22: Measures of BID annual levy spend £ across 345 active BIDs.

Measure	Levy Income
Lowest	£14,639
Lower quartile	£150,000
Median	£292,485
Upper Quartile	£542,387
Highest	£4,600,000

There are now 37 BIDs with levy incomes of £1million or over; all are in the major cities, where rateable values and thus income is higher; and the highest levy amount is £4,600,000 [2024, £4,100,000}.

[17] https://www.ajmc.com/view/a-timeline-of-covid19-developments-in-2020

Mean levy per hereditament

Although it is a slightly hypothetical figure, from the data it is possible to identify the average levy per hereditament for BIDs in the British Isles; with 134,098 [2023, 132,962; 2022, 121,485] hereditaments raising and spending £154,620,538 [2023, £150,316,106; 2022, £144,735,669], the average income and spend is £1,227 [2024, £1,153; 2023, £1,131; 2022, £1,191] per hereditament, slightly more than the £1,080 per hereditament four years ago.

Table 23 Mean levy per hereditament over time

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

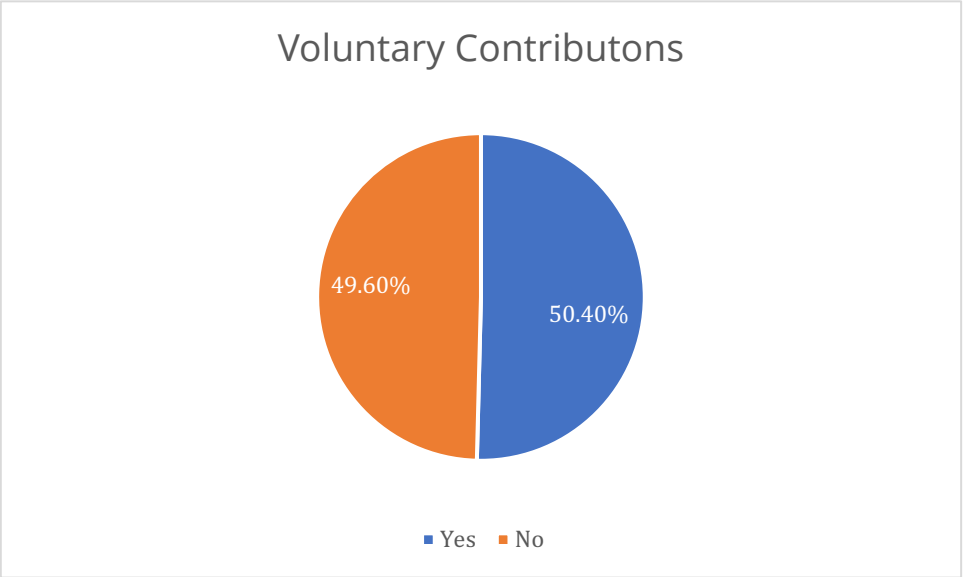
Additional income

BIDs were asked to identify any additional income, that is a contribution made to the BID over and above the levy income. There is a variety of sources for such income, and the report tries to identify some of them. During the Covid epidemic, and more recently by way of various tranches of Levelling up and now Pride in Place money was available from both central and local government by way of a range of grants; these have been included in this data.

Voluntary contributions

Many BIDs 50.4% [2024, 45%] received extra money from voluntary contributions, including local charities, local businesses outside the BID area, or businesses below the threshold. This is slightly more than previous surveys; although in 2021, 61% of BIDs received voluntary contributions

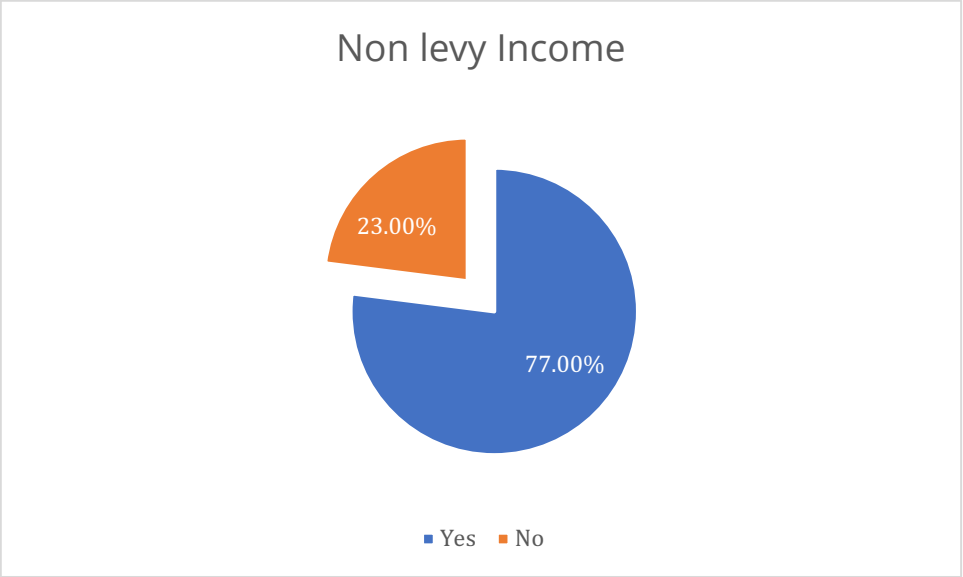
Figure 11 Voluntary financial contributions to BIDs 2025



External non-levy income

Most BIDs 77% [2024, 79%; 2023, 73%] also generate non-levy income from more formal sources, such as entrepreneurial activities, grant income, government funding, or local authority grants. This income is raised and spent on a wide range of extra activities above and beyond the original BID business plan.

Figure 12 The % of BIDs generating external income 2025



The data this year shows an increase in amounts raised with a median figure for additional external income in a BID of £58,000 [2024, £44,230; 2023, £46,061; 2022, £60,000], and at a total of £22,597,080 an increase of some £420k on last year's £21,758,676

Table 24: Measures of additional income for BIDs

Additional income	
Lower quartile	£20,000
Median	£58,000
Upper quartile	£100,000
Estimated Total	£22,597,080

The projects funded by this external income are enormously varied, but this word cloud gives some sense of the sort of projects.

Figure 4 Externally funded BID projects

Total BID spending 2025

Bringing together the two data sets – BID levy income and external income – allows a picture of the total actual investment by BID across the British Isles to emerge.

Table 25: Measure of Total BID funding 2025

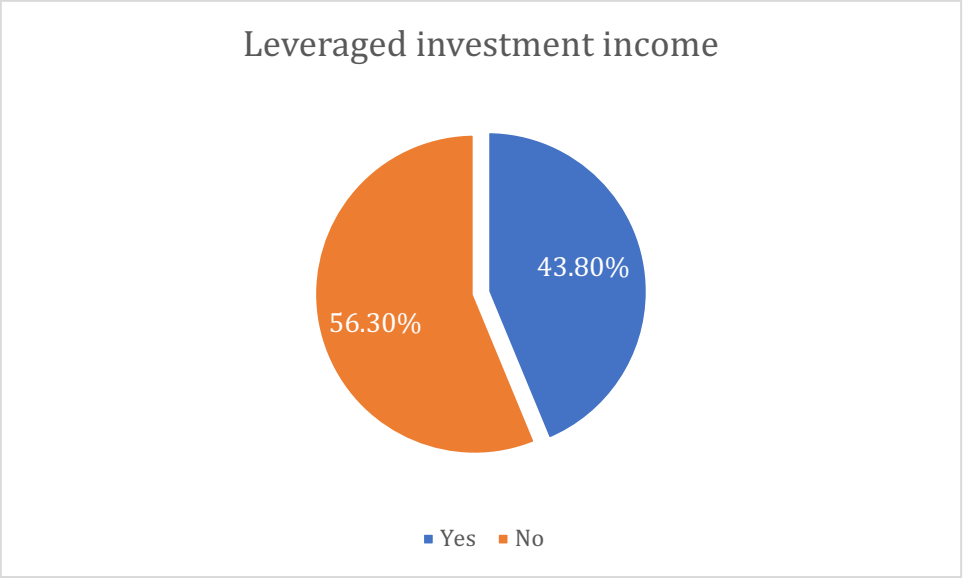
	Levy Income	External income	Total
Lowest	£14,639	£1,400	£16,039
Lower quartile	£150,000	£20,000	£170,000
Median	£292,485	£58,000	£350,485
Upper Quartile	£542,387	£100,000	£642,387
Highest	£4,600,000	£1,980,000	£6,580,000
Total	£169,928,983	£22,597,080	£192,526,063

Summating this totality of BID levy funding, and additional funding, gives a figure of £192,526,063 [2024, £171,170,187; 2023, £172,039,529; 2022, £171,847,331; 2021, £152,713,787] as the total direct contribution from all BIDs into their business communities. This does give a very prudent view of the direct impact of BIDs as change agents across the British Isles.

Leveraged investment income

Finally, beyond the direct additional income, BIDs were also invited to report on any inward investment income, which is financial investment as a direct result of the catalytic activity of the BID, and often being invested over up to five years

Figure 13 % of BIDs which leveraged some Inward investment 2025



Some 43.8% [2024, 40%; 2023, 35%; 2022, 48%; 2021, 51.9%] of the BID industry reported other leveraged investment income by way of projects and government funding as a direct result of their BID activity, although others recognised investment has been achieved but it is very difficult to quantify. It is now very much part of the role of BIDs to work with Town Fund and levelling up applications, but the amounts of money and the time scales are not easy to track. From the Town Funding alone some £3.6 billion is being spent over a five-year period, affecting some 50% BIDs.

Table 26: Leveraged Inward investment 2025

Leveraged investment	
Lowest	£13,372
Lower quartile	£76,221
Median	£231,337
Upper quartile	£729,070
Highest	£72,209,302
Total	£159,368,992

Types of investment projects

BIDs worked on projects that leveraged some £159,368,992 this year, again the projects vary and the cloud map shows some of the outcomes.

Figure 14 Types of leveraged external investment income.

Total BID funding and investment 2018-2025

Whilst comparisons over time may not always be useful, because of variations in definitions and individual BIDs data definition, the five-year data for all BID income and leveraged investment expenditure is a positive story, with a current

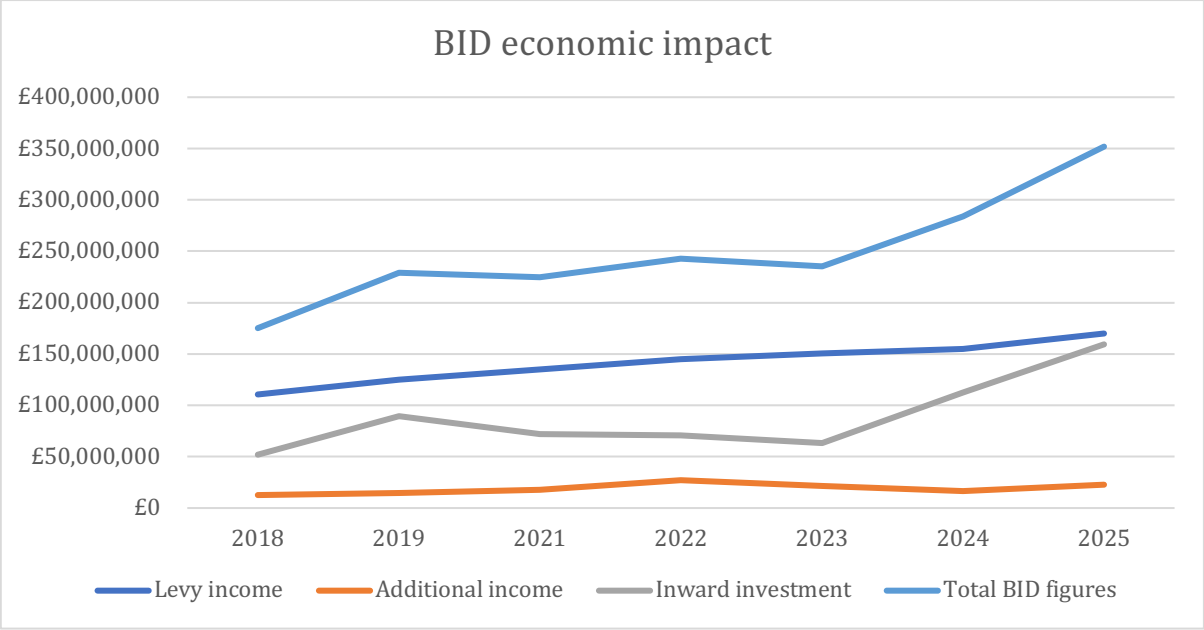
very estimated global projection of £351,895,056, showing growth in levy income, additional entrepreneurial income and much increased leveraged inward investment. This inward investment data has now been smoothed over a five-year period, as most of the projects were fairly long-term ones.

These data come from an amalgam of all BIDs data, married with the additional and external income projected from the surveys of the past six years. 2020 data was not collected; at the height of the Covid-19 epidemic the data was just not available.

Table 27: Estimated total BID spending and investment 2018-2025

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Levy income	£134,979,983	£144,735,669	£150,316,106	£154,620,538	£169,928,983
Additional income	£17,733,804	£27,111,662	£21,758,676	£16,549,649	£22,597,080
Inward investment	£72,000,000	£70,769,351	£63,201,361	£112,747,174	£159,368,992
Total BID figures	£224,713,787	£242,616,682	£235,276,143	£283,917,361	£351,895,056

Figure 15 BID economic impact 2018-2025



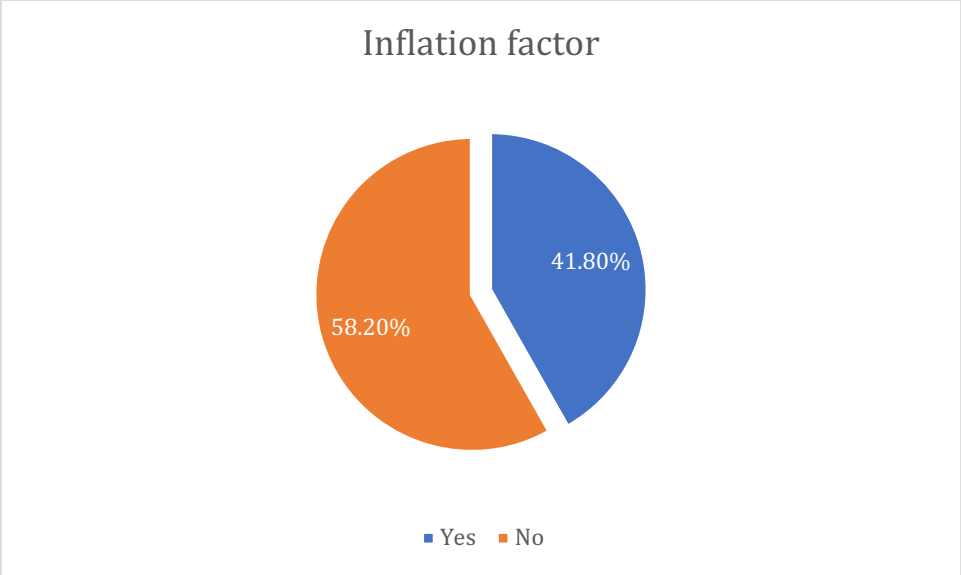
Inflation, terms, thresholds, and caps

Annual inflation factor

Some BIDs apply an annual inflation factor to the levy multiplier to ensure their income grows each year as their costs grow. Over the past four surveys the data for this question have shifted slightly; in 2021 37% of BIDs did so and in 2022 28% did so; a reduction of 9 percentage points. This year 41.8% [2024, 36%; 2023 24%] are applying an annual inflation factor, an increase of 5.98 percentage points. Now that inflation is becoming more evident, we expect to see an increase in this factor.

Some use the Retail Price index whist others use the Consumer Price Index; others use a rate agreed buy their Board. The main difference between the Retail Prices Index (RPI) and the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) is that the CPI is the primary measure of inflation in the UK, while the RPI is no longer a National Statistic.

Table 28: Use of an annual inflation factor 2025



An inflation rate of 3% is the median for those 36% of BIDs that use an inflation factor, but most stressed that this was at the Board's discretion, linked to either the CPI or the RPI.

Table 29: Annual % inflation rate used.

Inflation Measure	%
RPI	1.54%
CPI	3.08%
Median Percentage	2.25%

BID exemption thresholds in 2025

A threshold is a rateable value level below which hereditaments are not charged a levy. The two main purposes of a threshold are to ensure that small businesses are not required to pay a levy and at the same time making sure that any business levy collection costs are never greater than the levy itself; this therefore exempts them from the levy whilst still ensuring they benefit from the services.

90% of BIDs make use of an exemption threshold, with a Median figure of £10,000

Figure 16 Use of Exemption Thresholds

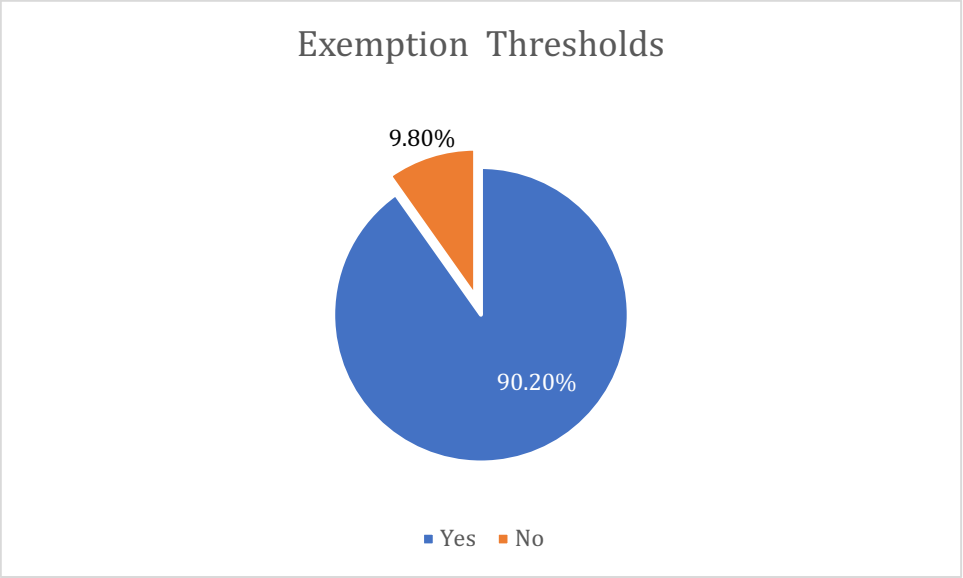


Table 30: Thresholds levels used by BIDs in 2025

Thresholds	
Lower quartile	£5,750
Median	£10,000
Upper quartile	£14,999
Highest	£50,999

Most BIDs aim to ensure that no levy payment is less than the cost of collection, others keep their threshold at or below the level of the current government Small Business Rate Relief threshold of either £12,000 [59%] or the tapered figure of £15,000 [75%].

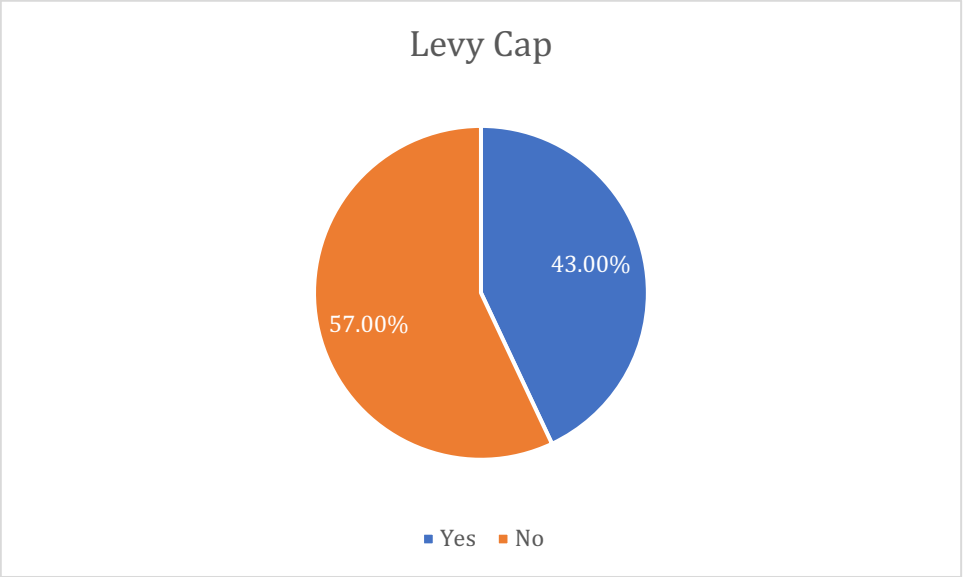
The distributions suggest that the Small Business Rates Relief is a key driver in many of the discussions on levels of any threshold, whilst at the same time some of the large city BIDs have higher thresholds.

This is an area of importance for many BIDs as they come to ballot. Clearly it is tactically valuable to keep the BID population small and with high levels of levy income so that the process of campaigning is simple and cost effective and turnout is high. At the same time, BIDs are about a business community where all are involved, equally represented and form a 'community of practice'.

Caps on BID levy payments

As part of this strategic process, many BIDs [43%] also apply a cap to levy payments, protecting some levy payers from larger than normal levy payments, for example, where their properties are disproportionally large compared to others in the BID area. From the survey population 43% do so [2023, 44%; 2022, 50% ; 2021, 42%]. The proportion now using them has gone down slightly. These caps can be of two sorts: firstly, to help business with several different properties within the boundary to stop them paying too large an amount; or secondly, to protect particularly large hereditaments in a BID area from paying a disproportionate amount. They can of course be seen as unfair by some median levy payers who don't have such support.

Figure 17: Percentage of BIDs using Caps.



This use of caps can be an important strategy for protecting larger businesses from unusually large levy payments, and it is clear that many of the national levy payers expect to see this. The spread of minimum payments suggest that they have an important role in some BIDs.

Table 31: The level of the caps used by BIDs

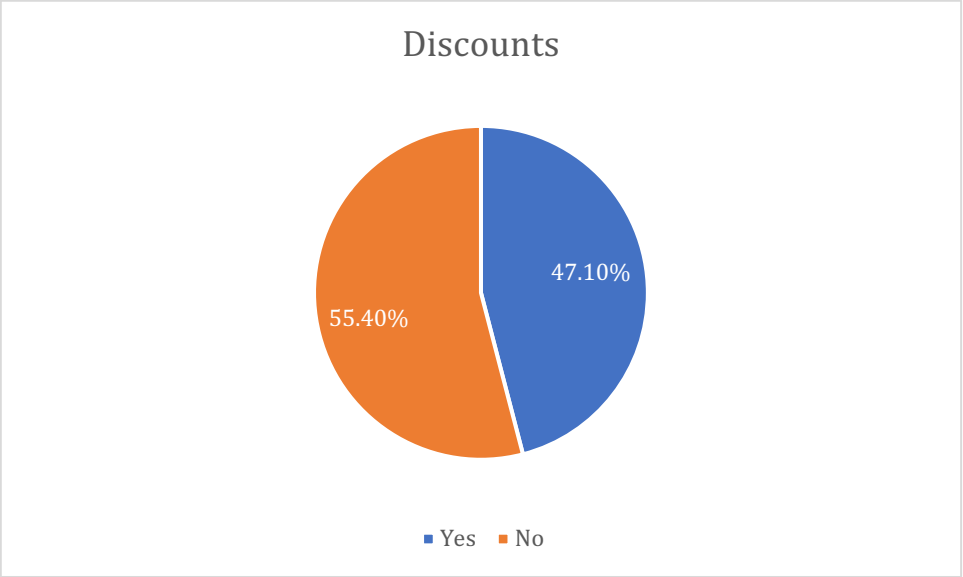
Caps	
Lower quartile	£4,438
Median	£15,000
Upper quartile	£23,000
Highest	£100,000

The largest cap on the annual levy collected in the survey was £100,000, with a median of £15,000.

BID levy discounts

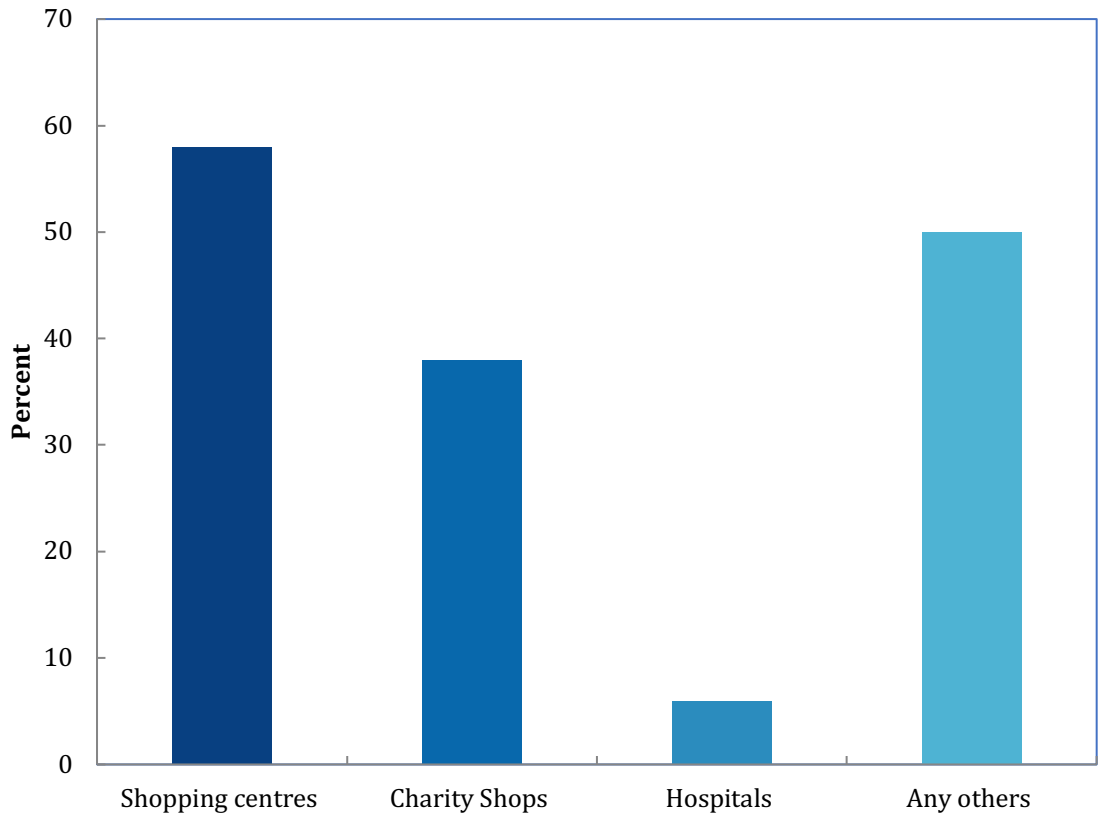
Most BIDs [47%] opt to give charities and other key players a discount on their levy, although this is becoming less prevalent over time, particularly in relation to discounts on commercially trading charity shops.

Figure 18: Levy discounts



From the survey, 47% [2024, 45%; 2023, 51%; 2022, 88%] provide some discounts; 4% of the BIDs specify that charity shops – that is those acting as retail outlets - are excluded from their discount rule. Of those who offer discounts, the greatest majority are for charities and shopping centres at 38% and 58% respectively.

Figure 19: Levy discounts by type



The level of discount was little changed over the years, with most offering 100% to non-trading charities, and shopping centres and shopping mall discounts ranging from 10-50%; but this year there has clearly been a slight hardening of the discount offering.

Levy collection

Levy collection costs

The levy collection charge is the sum of money charged by the local authority to the BID for the service of collecting the BID levy. The BID Regulations allow for the cost to the authority in respect of collecting the BID levy[18] to be charged to the BID; this service and the details of this service should be set out in an operating agreement between the two parties.

[18] 2004 Regs Schedule 3 2.1

Table 32: Levy collection costs

Cost of Levy collection	
Lowest	£0
Lower quartile	£4,900
Median	£9,800
Upper quartile	£16,730
Highest	£64,000

From the responses, 10% [2024, 12%] of BIDs have no collection charge made to them by their local authority. This is a further reduction from two years ago year, where some 30% of BIDs were not paying for collection. The median collection costs figure – that which 50% of BIDs are below - is £9,800.

Current Levy collection rates

Levy collection rates have been a key issue for many BIDs during and after the Covid-19 lockdown, as local authority teams have engaged with both government grants and support for businesses.

Nonetheless, the data collected show a better picture than anecdotal evidence would suggest, with a median figure of 95% Levy collection rates and the lowest was 70% collected.

Table 33 Levy collection rates 2024– averages from BIDs

Measure	Percentage of Levy collected
Lowest	70.00
Lower quartile	92.00
Median	95.00
Upper quartile	97.00
Highest	99.80

Levy collection and Enforcement

One of the key issues for BIDs as they collect their levies is information as to who has paid and who has not paid, and any information on how they might assist in the process. Some authorities are supportive of this others are less helpful.

The data suggests that most BIDs [96.5%] are being given information to help them plan their income streams and have a sense of payers and non-payers.

Figure 20 Data on collection levels

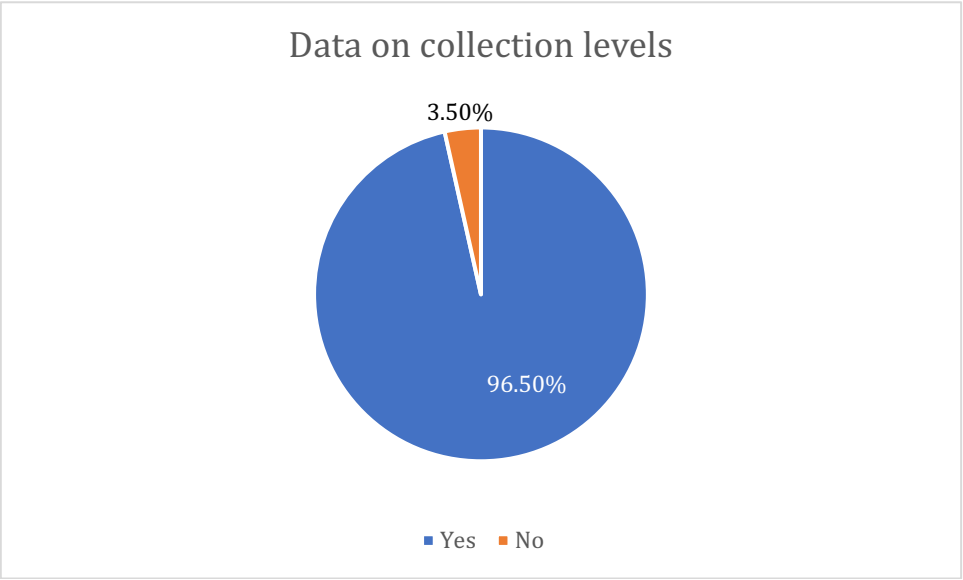
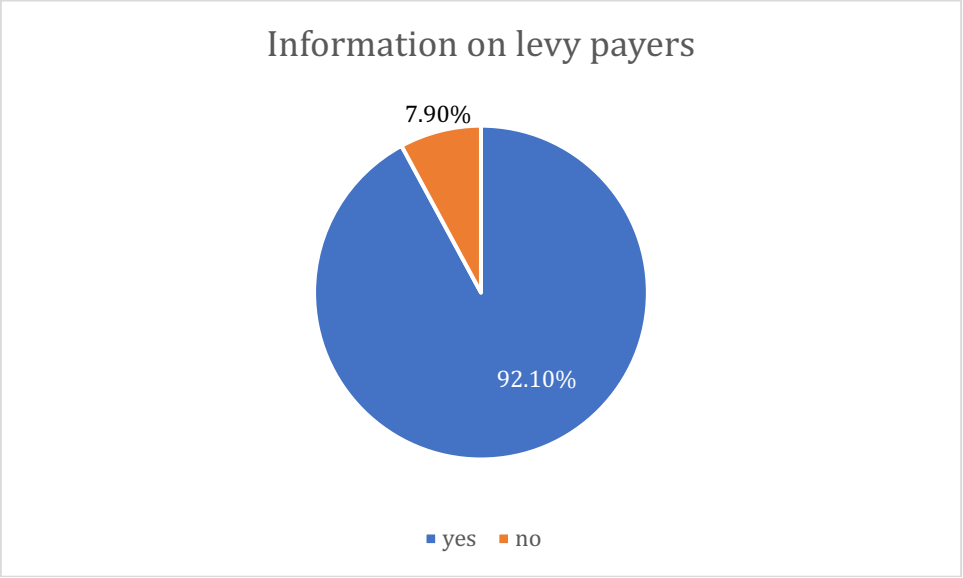


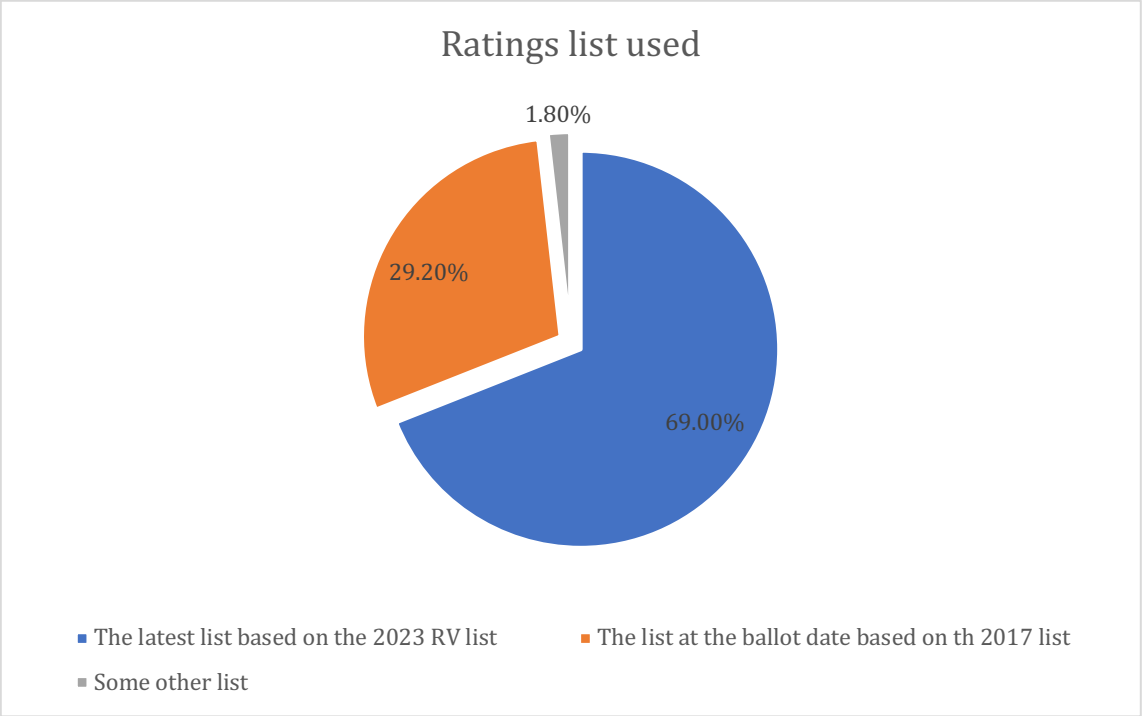
Figure 21 Information on levy payers



Business rates list

Most BIDs [69%] use the current 2023 non-domestic Ratings list for their levy collection, with 30% using the list extant at their ballot date. The latter of course allows a constant picture of income for the BID and levy payment for the businesses and is thus often preferred by many.

Figure 22 Ratings list used for levy collection.



Business rates revaluation 2026

All non-domestic properties are now revalued every three years by the Valuation Office Agency. The next revaluation is taking place and will be effective as from 1 April 2026[19]. The last ratings change [20] clearly affected many BIDs' levy income as ballots move BIDs onto the latest list. The plan to review business rates more regularly[21] was one of the British BIDs requests in our submission to the Treasury on business rates back in[22] 2019. The change of government and a promised review of Business Rates has not changed this, and there is little indication that the current government will make radical changes to business rates in the short term despite the Transforming Business Rates[23] interim

[19] https://valuationoffice.blog.gov.uk/2025/09/29/revaluation-2026-everything-you-need-to-know/
[20] https://www.gov.uk/government/news/providing-rental-information-for-revaluation-2023?utm_source=11833c1f-94d9-4fbd-becf-a759f82bd28a&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate
[21] https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/997352/Consultation_More_Frequent_Revaluations.pdf
[22] https://britishbids.info/publications/the-impact-of-business-rates-on-business-inquiry
[23] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/transforming-business-rates-interim-report

report. The last King's speech did not specifically mention business rates[24], although the upcoming budget in November might.

The rateable value is assessed by the Valuation Office Agency, which is an agency of HM Revenue and Customs. A property's rateable value is an assessment of the annual rent the property would rent for if it were available to let on the open market at a fixed valuation date. From April 2026, the rateable values will be based on the valuation date of 1 April 2024, and clearly this may affect many BIDs. Many BIDs are using the current list and will thus move onto the new 2026 list.

The central rating lists.

In addition to local rating lists, the Secretary of State also holds a central list which contains hereditaments which, by their nature, are unsuitable for including in local lists (e.g., utility networks). The central rating lists contain the rating assessments of the network property of major transport, utility and telecommunications undertakings and cross-country pipelines. The central rating list can be viewed on the Valuation Office Agency's website.

Hereditaments appearing on the central rating list do not appear on local rating lists. The business rates bill for central list hereditaments is paid to the Secretary of State and then passed to the Treasury and therefore there is no contribution toward any local BID. The government has moved all telecom networks, railways and mobile networks onto the central list.

BID management and governance

BID management teams

Staffing

The staffing levels of BIDs vary widely, as one would expect from organisations so varied in income and service provision.

From the data it is possible to extrapolate total numbers, and this suggests that across the five administrations and countries, BIDs employed some 981.1 full time equivalent staff [2024, 1,104; 2023, 944; 2022, 993.58; 2021,1,040], a reduction of some 122 FTE staff. This is clearly a mixture of responses to budget pressures and possibly some data collection issues.

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[24] https://www.geraldeve.com/insights/rating-update-kings-speech-2024/

Whilst the median staffing level for a BID is now 2.1, the range is wide, with a high of 18 staff. A number of BIDs are managed by Board members, so have no staffing numbers, and 11% are managed by part-time staff only.

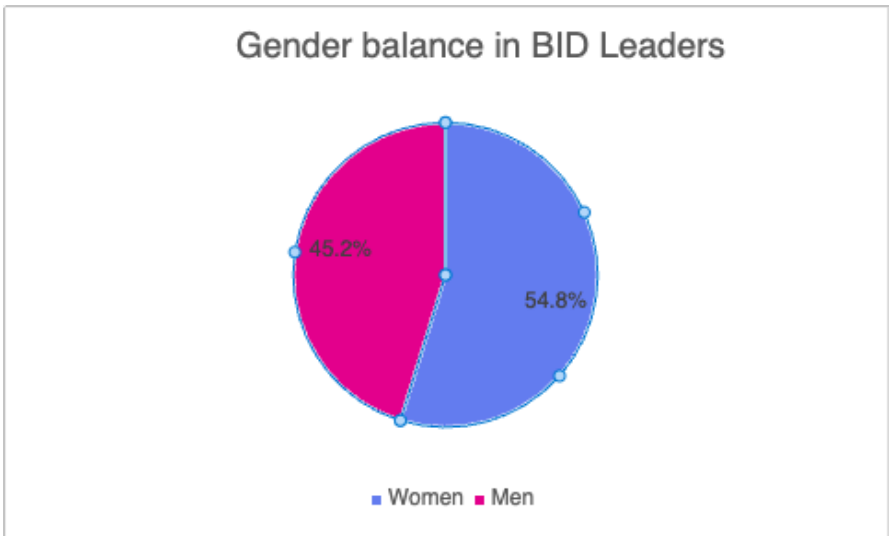
Table 34: Staffing levels in BIDs

Staffing numbers	
Lowest	0.0
Lower quartile	1.0
Median	2.1
Upper quartile	5.0
Highest	18.0
Total	981.1

Gender balance in BID managers

Following interest last year, we continue to look at the gender balance amongst BID managers, using a simple forename analysis.

Figure 23 Gender balance in BID leaders 2025



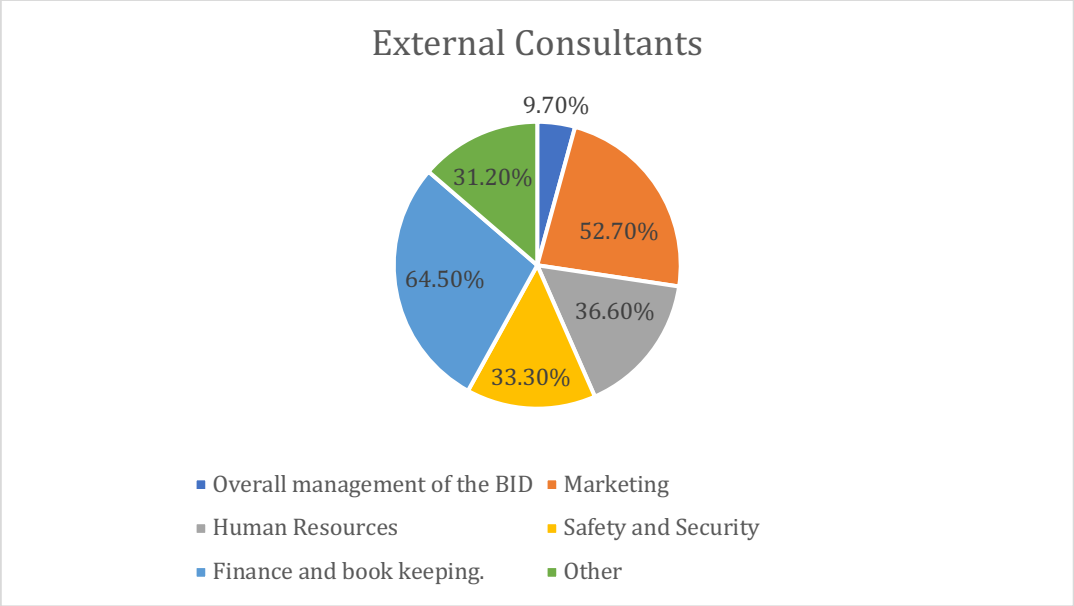
The gender balance amongst BID chief executives and managers, based on simple forename analysis, has moved very strongly, from almost exactly 50:50

male:female in 2019, to 55:45 female:male in 2025. Sadly, our analysis is not yet able to handle gender fluidity.

External staffing providers

From the survey response, external staff, that is staff working for the BID but not on payroll, are used by 80% BIDs [2024, 80%; 2023, 78%; 2022, 73%; 2021, 60%]; this includes staff working in security, marketing, and general operational activities, including rangers and other staff.

Figure 24: Use of external staffing % of BIDs



The majority of the support staff brought in are finance and bookkeeping for over 64% of BIDs; with marketing also important at 52%. Many of the 'other' category included Rangers, web designers and event management staff.

Overall BID management by consultants

One trend is for BIDs to be fully managed by external consultants, thus saving direct staffing costs and ensuring a wide range of expertise that can be called upon. Some 22% [2024, 14%; 2022,15%; 2021, 20%] of BIDs describe themselves as being fully managed in this fashion and it will be interesting to see if BID Boards continue this trend in the future. The shifts are becoming larger.

Shared staff

Another emerging trend is for BIDs to share staff, either by having one shared manager working for more than one BID, or for a member of one BID team to also work for another in a different role.

BID Boards

BID Boards are a vital part of the BID community as issues of governance and transparency rightly come to the fore, and governance matters are key parts of the British BID Industry Guidelines [25]. This year we were particularly interested in both local community, and property owners involvement, along with the usual issues of gender and ethnicity

The data suggest that there are 2,899 [2024, 2,901; 2023, 2,988] members of BID Boards across the British Isles, whose task is to ensure that each BID is governed according to the normal rules of good corporate governance.

Table 35: BID Boards by size and distribution

Board Sizes	
Smallest	3
Lower quartile	7
Median	10
Upper quartile	12
Largest	28
Total number of Directors across the country	2,899

From the data there is a range of BID Board size and composition, although most range from 7-12, with the largest at 25 and a median size of 10.

Property owners

70% of BIDs reported having some form of property ownership involved in their Boards, with a median number of 1 and a maximum of 12; and there are 548 [2022, 522] property owner Board members across the British Isles. This is a flat trend, although there is an increased interest in property owners as key stakeholders in BIDs.

[25] https://britishbids.info/publications/business-plan-criteria-for-bids-2024

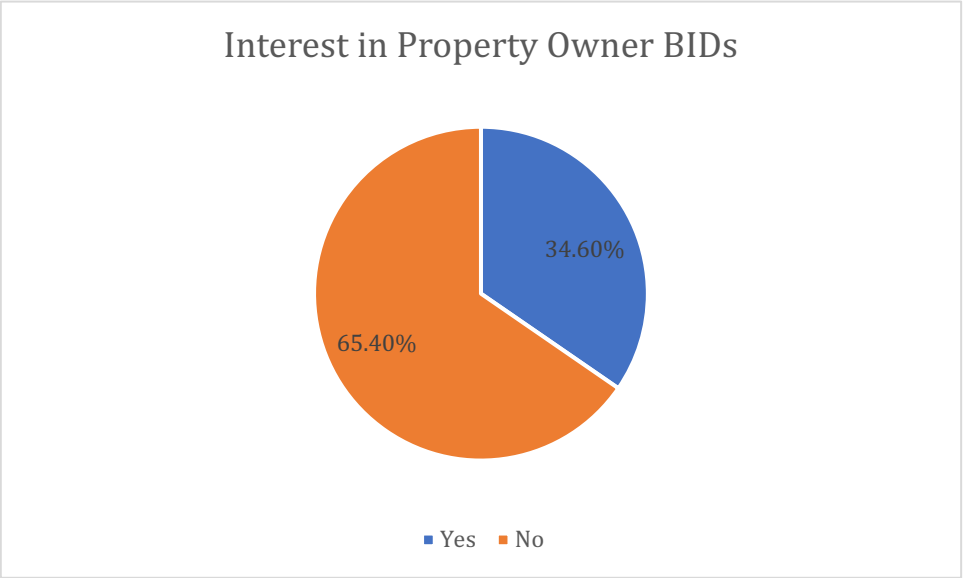
Table 36: Property owners on Boards

Property Owners on Boards	
Lowest	0
Lower quartile	0
Median	1
Upper quartile	3
Highest	10
Total	548

The figure is possibly higher than the data show; some BIDs have included their shopping centre BID Board members as owners, but others don't, and some Board members own their business properties. Similarly, local authority representatives are not often recognised as property owners. However, many more BIDs are becoming aware of these differences and are articulating them in their responses.

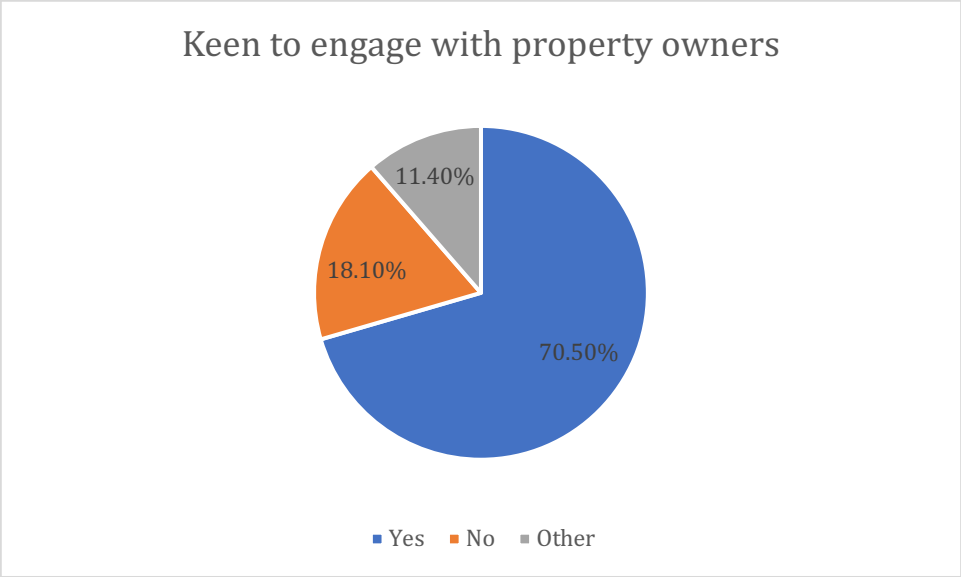
There seems to be a waning interest in the development of property BIDs despite a key interest from many of the landlords and property owners themselves.

Figure 25 Interest in Property Owner BIDs



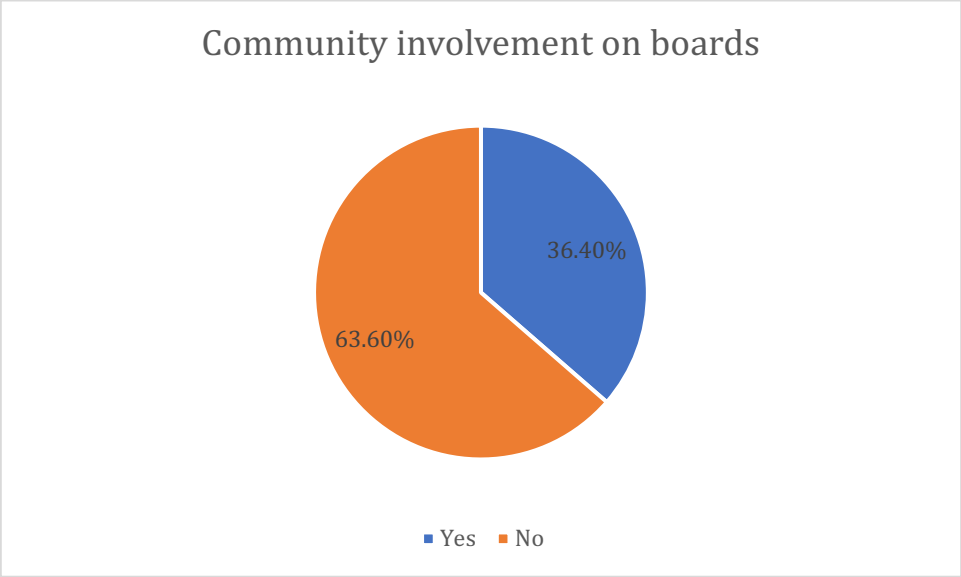
On the other hand, many BIDs were keen to engage with property owners and landlords both locally and nationally.

Figure 26 Keen to engage with Property owners and landlords



Local community involvement in BID Boards

We were interested in local community involvement in BID Boards, and it is interesting that the data suggests that 36% of BID Boards have local community representation, such as Civic Trusts or Residents Groups, with a median number of 1 representative and a maximum of 6, with 158 such representatives across the country. These community representatives on BID boards sit alongside the Local Authority representation on 88.39% of BID Boards giving a strong local community presence on most BID Boards.



Local authority involvement on Boards

Most BIDs also have Local Authority representation on their Boards, reflecting the important relationship between a BID and its local authority; at least 70% of BIDs have Local Authority representation, and there are 262
Local Authority Board members across the industry. The median membership number is 1 Local Authority representative

Table 37: Local Authority Board members

Local Authority Board members	
Lowest	0
Lower quartile	0
Median	1
Upper quartile	1
Highest	4
Total	262

Observers on BID Boards

The balance between directors and observers also varies across BIDs, with most having 10 Directors and 1 Observer, whilst some have up to 20 members on their Board, and up to 6 observers.

Table 38: Observers on BID Boards

Observers on Boards	Numbers
Lower Quartile	0
Median number of Observers on BID Boards	1
Upper Quartile	2
Largest	6
Total observers in sector	399
Percentage of BID Boards with observers	58.47%

Gender balance of Boards

We remain interested in both the gender and ethnic diversity of Boards. The median number of women on BID boards is 4, the highest is 11 and there are 987 women on BID boards across the British Isles out of 2,899 directors;

Table 39: Gender balance on BID Boards

Women on Boards	
Lowest	0
Lower quartile	2
Median	4
Upper quartile	5
Highest	11
Total	987

Diversity balance of Boards

On the matter of ethnic diversity, the responses identified 270 [2024, 243; 2023, 288; 2022, 213; 2021, 177] black, Asian and minority ethnic directors across the British Isles, with 61% of BIDs having such representation

Table 40: Black, Asian and minority ethnic members of Boards

Black, Asian and minority ethnic members on Boards	
Lowest	0
Lower quartile	0
Median	1
Upper quartile	1
Highest	11
Total	270

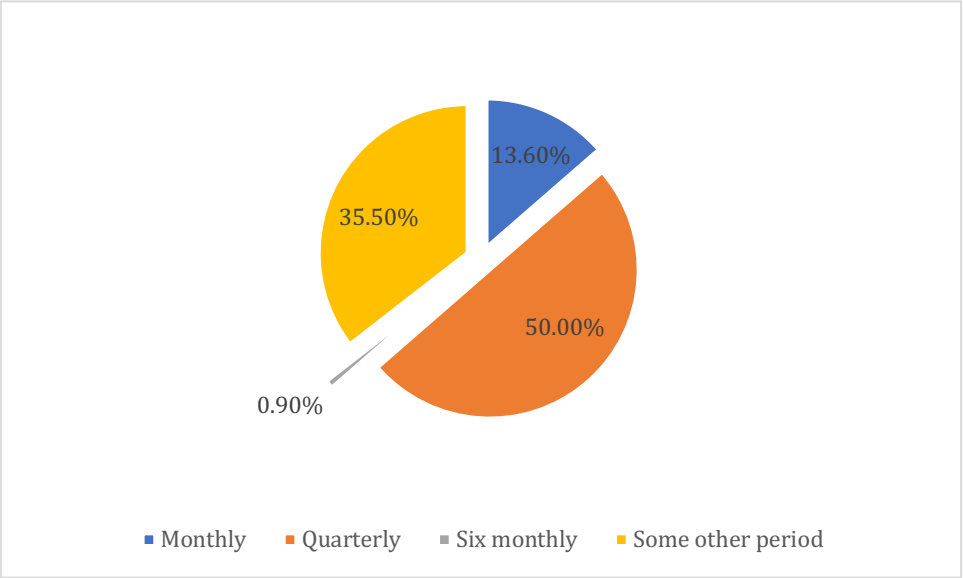
Shared Boards

There are some BIDs with shared or overarching Boards. It may be the local DMO that has gestated a number of BIDs in their area, or a BID that is then approached to set up another BID in a nearby or local community. They are clearly emerging possibilities for new developments, and developments such as the new merged Bristol BIDs allows some new thinking

Board meetings

Many BIDs are interested in how often Boards meet; the data suggests that there is still a very shared split between monthly, quarterly and various other periods; clearly it is for Boards to decide which suits them best. The majority of BIDs have Quarterly Board meetings

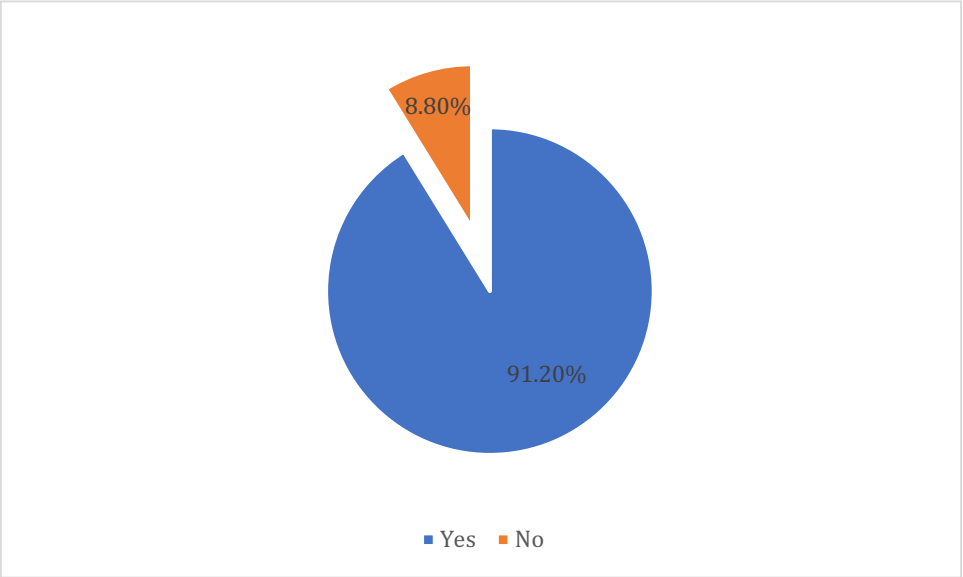
Figure 27: Board meeting timings



Annual accounts

The public provision of annual accounts is an important part of good corporate governance. These can range from detailed accounts posted on websites, to more basic ones, linked to the regulatory requirement [26] for every billing authority to supply to each person receiving a demand notice the revenue due to be received the previous year, the amount spent, the matters on which it was spent and the proposed spend for the coming year. From the returns, 91% [2023, 92%] of BIDs make their accounts publicly available to their levy payers. Of course, Companies House requires that all registered companies lodge accounts with them.

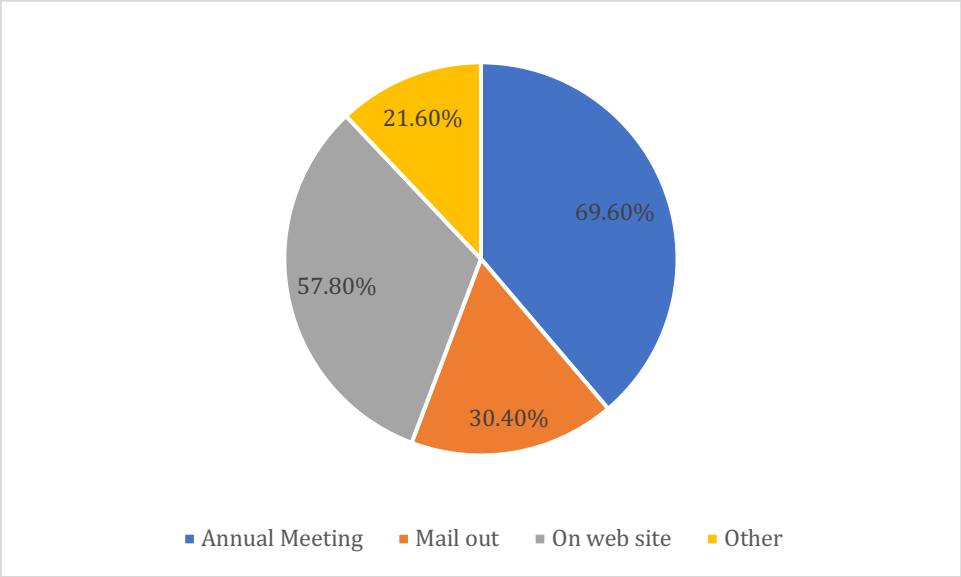
Figure 28: Publicly available accounts



And BIDs use a variety of dissemination tools, with an annual meeting being the most popular with 69% of BIDs using them.

[26] Business Improvement District (England) Regulations 2004 Schedule 4 Regulation 15 3 (2) (a)-(d)

Figure 29: Dissemination of accounts



BID policy matters

There are a number of policy matters with which BIDs are involved and this year the survey focused on ten of them:

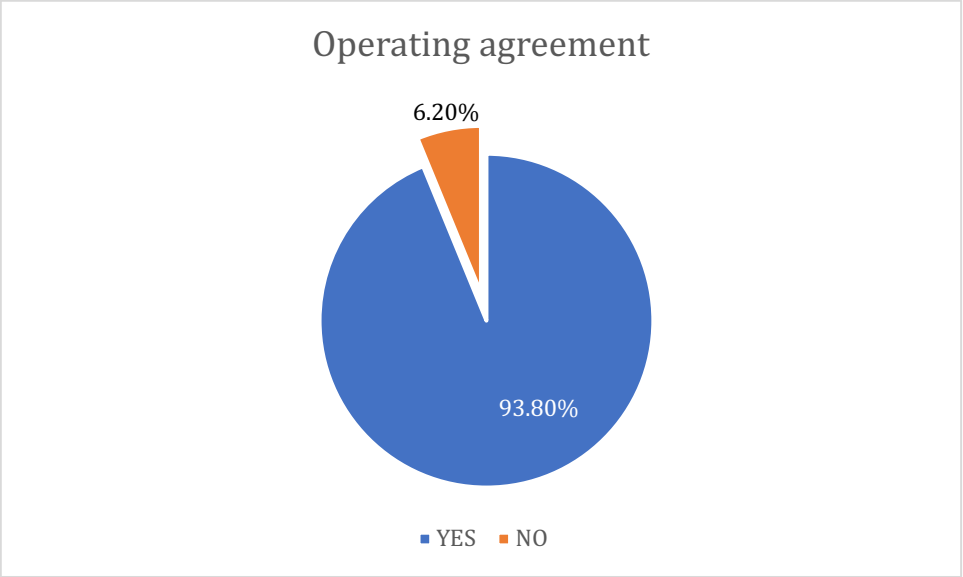
- operating agreements,
- baseline statements,
- community involvement,
- Economic Social and governance issues [ESG],
- Improving the BID model
- DMOs and LVEPs
- professional services levy payers,
- permitted development rights,
- Business Crime Reduction Partnerships
- government funding for the high street .

Local Authority Policy issues

Operating agreements

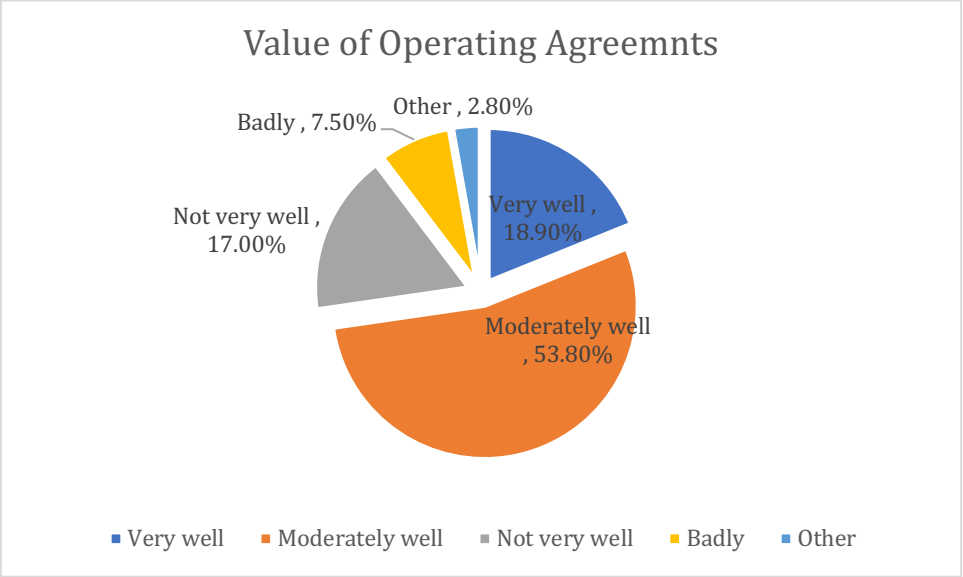
Each BID needs an operating agreement with its local authority; 93% of BIDs have an operating agreement with its local authority, but some still don't have them.

Figure 30: BIDs and operating agreements



Some 73% [2024, 76%] of BIDs feel that their agreements work well or moderately well; but some 17% feel that they don't, and this clearly is a matter of concern for them and indeed the industry. Others [4%] felt that they were not really used or understood by their local authorities. Clearly there is still work to be done here; this has been a constant for some years and some BIDs in England will need to work hard with their new local authorities after Local Government Reorganisation.

Figure 31: Perceived success of operating agreements.



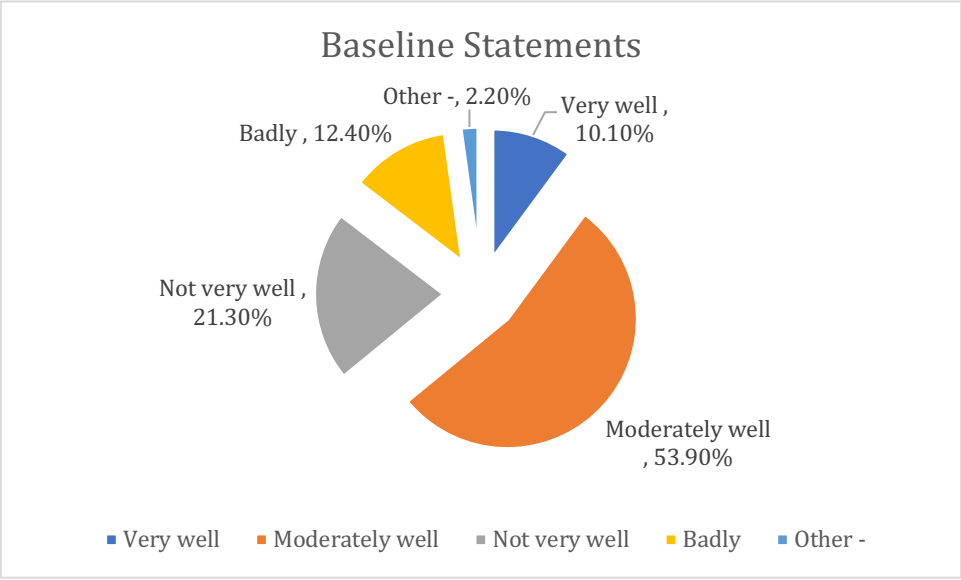
Baseline Services and Statements

BIDs generally need to develop agreements with their local authorities and other public services, such as the police, in order to ensure levels of service, which the BID will then augment rather than replace.

Although these are not mandated by the regulations, these baseline statements are useful elements in the BID proposal process, and ***a statement of the existing baseline services (if any) provided by the relevant billing authority or other public authority*** is required under the regulations[27]. Although the definition is not precise, it is evident from the survey, that 78% of BIDs had baseline statements, but surprisingly 21% did not. This has not changed over several years.

On the matter of adherence, although there was an increasing sense of 'slippage' with 33% [2024, 22%; 2023, 20%] of BIDs feeling that baseline statements were being followed badly or not very well, whilst 64% [2024, 70% 2023, 65%] felt that they were still being adhered to well or moderately well in difficult circumstances for many local authorities. Nonetheless, this is a slight increase in dissatisfaction, from the data collected last year and clearly reflects the declining funding base for many local authorities. Of course, baseline statements have no legal binding force but are useful statements of intent.

Figure 32: Baseline statement effectiveness



[27] The Business Improvement Districts (England) Regulations 2004. Schedule 1 Regulation 4 1(1) b.

Community matters

Community involvement and Community Improvement Districts

The government has made clear [28] that they ***will continue to support Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) which have helped to improve town and city centres across the UK for 20 years, to foster positive connections between businesses and places, while ensuring they operate to high standards and are accountable to their communities.***

There is a suggestion that BIDs should have more community involvement on their Boards, as part of a move toward Community Improvement Districts [CIDs]. BIDs were asked if they had such community membership, for example, Civic Trusts, Residents Groups, elected Councillors, etc.

Interestingly, the data suggests that 33% of BIDs already have local community involvement and 88% were using their local Councillors to fulfil this role.

On the other hand, some BIDs were very committed to the philosophy of businesses paying the levy should be allowed to run the BID as they needed and expected to.

The comments were wide ranging and various and suggest that BIDs are very engaged with methods of community engagement.

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28 https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/688c6c8ed8da16bcb8469584/backing_your_business_policy_annex.pdf

Figure 33 Community involvement

Environmental, Social and Governance issues

There is a growing interest in the Environmental, Social and Governance issues involved in modern business practice and thinking[29]. Environmental, social, and governance (ESG) investing refers to a set of standards for a company's behaviour used by socially conscious investors. Along with the growing interest and concerns about Corporate Social Responsibility[30] and the United Nations global compact[31], it is clear that many national levy payers are keen that BIDs engage with these issues[32].

Environmental criteria consider how a company safeguards the environment, including corporate policies addressing climate change, for example. Social criteria examine how it manages relationships with employees, suppliers, customers, and the communities where it operates. Governance deals with a company's leadership, executive pay, audits, and internal controls. For BIDs

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[29] https://www.investopedia.com/terms/e/environmental-social-and-governance-esg-criteria.asp
[30] https://www.hec.edu/en/faculty-research/centers/sustainability-organizations-institute/think/so-institute-executive-factsheets/what-corporate-social-responsability-csr#:~:text=Corporate%20Social%20Responsibility%20(CSR)%20is,became%20mainstream%20in%20the%202000s.
[31] https://unglobalcompact.org/
[32] https://inspiredplc.co.uk/who-we-help/retail/?utm_term=esg%20in%20retail&utm_campaign=Retail&utm_source=adwords&utm_medium=ppc&hsa_acc=4211027123&hsa_cam=19780089750&hsa_grp=146976610979&hsa_ad=690432042942&hsa_src=g&hsa_tgt=kwd-1681069545783&hsa_kw=esg%20in%20retail&hsa_mt=b&hsa_net=adwords&hsa_ver=3&gad_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAjwmaO4BhAhEiwA5p4YL8r_aMQACzao1BlwYVjYRydCkjW2DAJvXeLIKO1xSdeNYNm-nCC7_BoCZ0IQAvD_BwE

these allow both a need to review their own ESG issues, as well as those of their levy payers and some BIDs have already done much work on this[33]. This year the data suggests that 48% [2024, 40%] of BIDs were engaging with ESG issues for either themselves or their levy payers and the responses in the survey were wide ranging.

Figure 34 Interest in ESG issues

Figure 35 Word cloud of ESG work by BIDs

[33] https://cityco.com/2022-23-bid-esg-review/

Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation

The new Devolution Bill, to both devolve powers to elected Mayors and to reorganise some Local authorities, is going to affect many BIDs. BIDs were asked if they were able to engage with this and how important they thought it was going to be for their BID. The responses were strong, in those areas where reorganisation would have an impact. British BIDs will clearly take time for further analysis of these responses and see the impact that will have on our training and development.

The new Strategic Authorities, mirroring the existing elected Mayoralties[34] in areas such as the West Midlands and Manchester, along with the new Unitary Authorities, will replace the LEPs and other regional economic for a, and will lead on economic development including tourism. It is not proposed that they will have any tourism tax powers as they have in Scotland and Wales.

Table 41 Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation

[34] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Directly_elected_mayors_in_England

Destination Management Organizations and LVEPs

Destination Management Organisations (DMOs)[35] played a key role in developing tourism locally; the framework of England's tourism management is now evolving. After the DMO review in 2021, the new Local Visitor Economy Partnerships (LVEP) Programme[36] is currently being implemented, and Destination Development Partnerships (DDPs) are being trialled. Under the new scheme, DMOs will be renamed Local Visitor Economy Partnerships (LVEPs), and new Destination Development Partnerships (DDPs) will set regional priorities for the visitor economy.

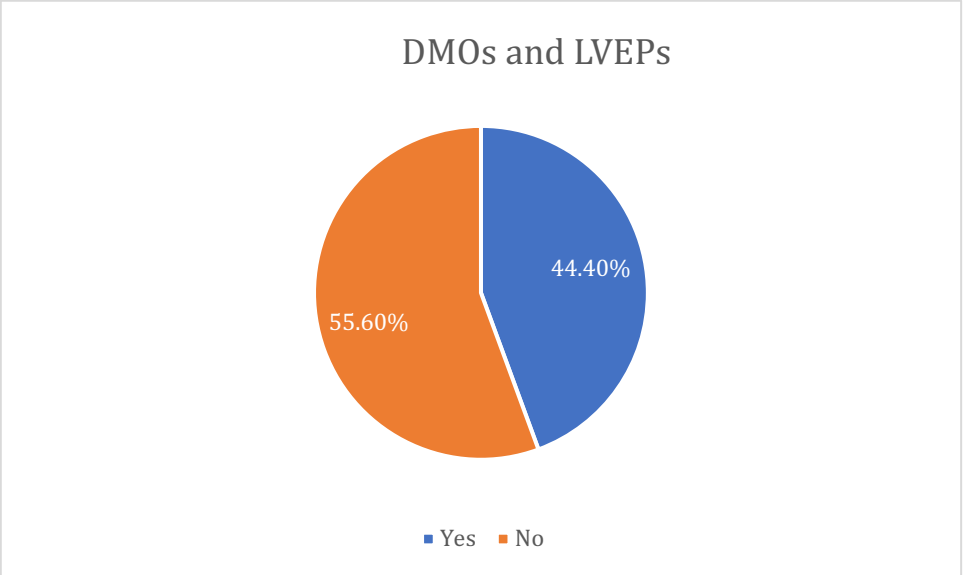
Destinations remain the places that people want to visit and experience; they are the heart and soul of the visitor economy and because they are diverse, they don't always fit neatly into county (or national) borders or within public sector administrative boundaries. They may cover a single destination, e.g. Oxford, or a number of smaller destinations with a strong identity caused by its natural geography or landscape, well-known in its own right, e.g. the Cotswolds.

Many BIDs are closely involved with their LVEP or Destination Management Organisation, others less so; some fully manage their LVEP, others are managed by the local DMO. This year 44% of BIDs were involved with their local LVEP/DMO in one form or another and expect to see growth in this activity, and the percentage involved has increased slightly [2023, 43%; 2022, 46.15%] since last year. Others were surprised that a DMO had not yet evolved in their area and would be looking to stimulate interest. Others found them less than helpful.

[35] https://www.visitbritain.org/resources-destination-partners/dmo-review

[36] https://www.visitbritain.org/resources-destination-partners/local-visitor-economy-partnership-lvep-programme

Figure 36 Destination Management Organisations



Service and professional sector support from BIDs

A question that was suggested by a number of BIDs for previous surveys, and has continued this year, was the level of specific support by BIDs for non-retail activity. It is evident that many BIDs are starting to focus on their service industries as it becomes clearer how vital they are to the health of the high street.

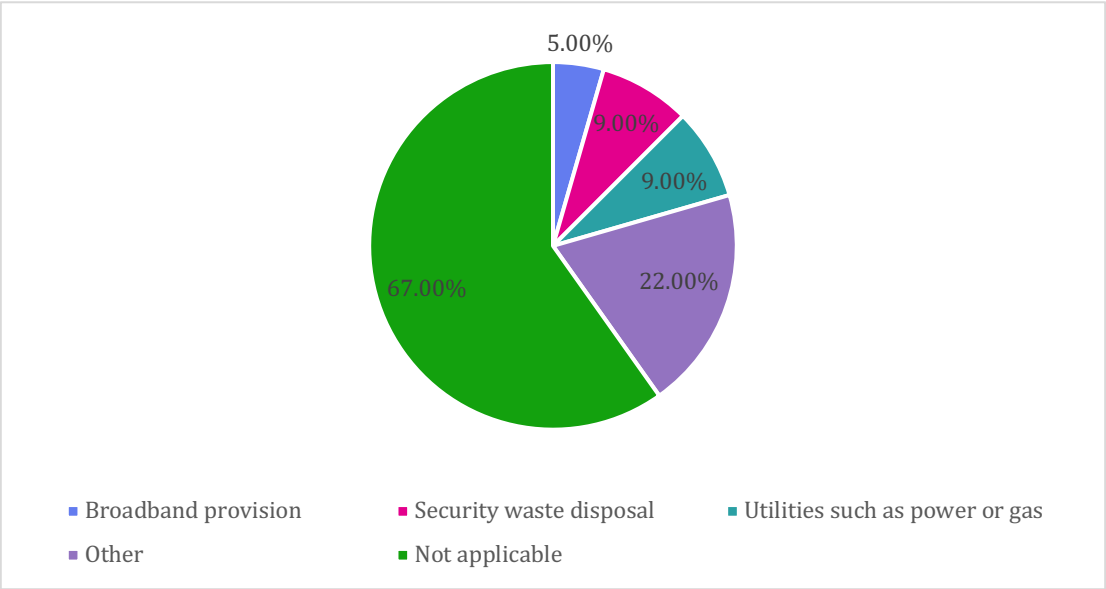
Work from the BID for Cities has shown how "***the fortunes of the High Street are dependent on the fortunes of the wider BID in which they are based. The debate must be about jobs and city BIDs, not just about shops and High Streets***". They suggest that more than one third of jobs are in knowledge-intensive service activities, such as finance, law and marketing and many of the highest skilled and best paid industries – which have been critical sources of jobs growth in recent years - prefer to locate in city BIDs [37].

The responses to the survey suggest that BIDs are still evolving in their thinking on support for professional services, with a surprising 67% [2023, 51%; 2022, 55%; 2021, 58%.] of the respondents feeling it was not relevant. There were examples of BIDs providing support for their service and professional sector levy-paying members, in the areas of utilities cost reduction – waste, power, recycling - and in the areas of free wireless, Wi-Fi support and broadband

[37] BID for Cities. https://www.BIDforcities.org/high-streets/

provision. There has also been a growth in office and administration area BIDs in the last year or so.

Figure 37: Professional Services support



Permitted Development Rights

The changes in 2020 to the planning system to allow change of use from offices (B1(a)) to residential use (C3), and the new Class E [38], which more broadly covers uses previously defined in the revoked Classes A1/2/3, B1, D1(a-b) and 'indoor sport' from D2(e), has not been helpful in some instances, effectively reducing the ability of the local planning authority and stakeholders to curate the town BID they need and want. In other instances, it has allowed residents to move back into town and city BIDs. The current government appears determined to expand these new powers[39]; The new Secretary of State, alongside Housing Minister Matthew Pennycook, is committed to working in partnership with industry leaders to ramp up housebuilding, focusing on the remaining barriers, including complex planning processes, that stand in the way of building 1.5 million homes in this Parliament.

The responses from BIDs were very varied, with some BIDs very concerned over the impact of these increasingly relaxed development rights, whilst others saw them as a very positive way of bringing residents back into town centres. The word cloud shows some of these concerns

[38] https://www.planningportal.co.uk/info/200130/common_projects/9/change_of_use
[39] https://www.gov.uk/government/news/housing-secretary-issues-call-to-arms-to-build-baby-build

Business Crime Reduction Partnerships

Most BIDs 80.4% [2024, 78.4%; 2023, 68.4%) are involved in their Business Crime Reduction Partnerships, Pub and Shop Watch and other local policing projects. This is a 12-percentage point increase on last year and is indicative of the growing importance of BCRPs.

Figure 38 Percentage of BIDs involvement in Business crime Reduction Partnerships

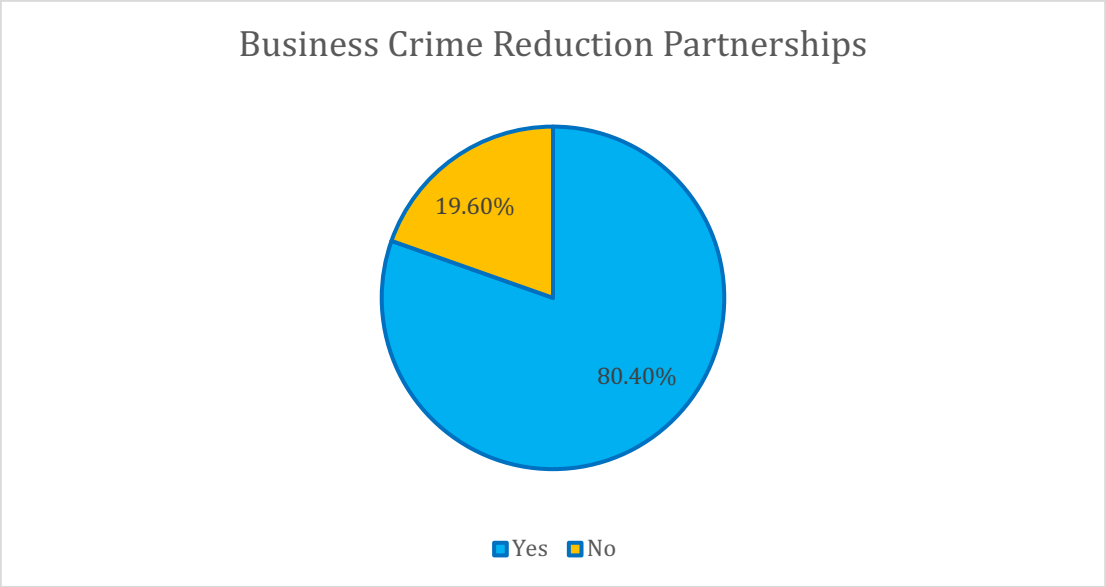
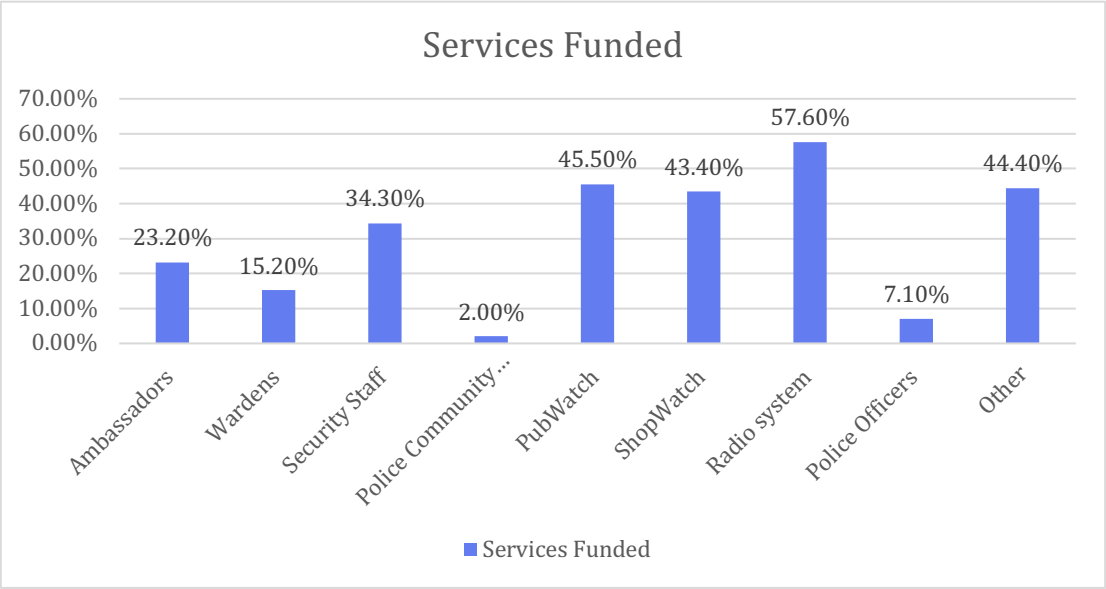


Figure 39 BID funded involvement in Business crime reduction



The types of funded involvement vary but the majority of support is around Pub and Shop watch, rangers and wardens, street pastors, policing and PCSOs, radios, cameras and software packages etc.

Many BIDs are also involved in wider projects around taxi marshals, Betfair support, Best Bar None awards etc.

Government funding and support for the high street

The story of the English government funding for developing towns, BIDs and the high street remains splendidly complex and very contested[40] [41], with originally three separate funding streams: Towns Fund [42], Future High Streets Fund [43] and then the Heritage Action Zone[44] ; these were worth in total some £3.6 billion, and some overlap in terminology and money[45]. This was then augmented by another £50m of EU funding to respond to Covid-19. Very recently, a new Long-Term Plan for Towns was announced for 55 towns that will benefit from a £1.1 billion levelling up investment, as part of a plan for towns that have been 'overlooked and taken for granted'[46]. The third round of the Levelling Up Fund was launched in mid-November 2023 [47].

To this was added the Shared Prosperity Fund [SPF] in 2022and continued by the current government.

Finally, and more recently the government has announced a new Pride in Place[48] funding allocation to 339[49] specific communities

Thus, overall, some £20 Billion[50] seems to have been announced in a very wide range of projects, with very different project titles. This was a vital new and very large source of innovation and growth in our high streets and following the latest government announcement [51].The final analysis of the impact and efficacy of this funding is not yet clear[52] and British BIDs will attempt to produce a

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[40] Soult, Graham. https://www.cannyinsights.com/2020/01/08/explainer-high-streets-task-force-versus-future-high-streets-fund-and-towns-fund/

[41] https://www.instituteforgovernment.org.uk/explainers/towns-fund

[42] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/towns-fund-further-guidance

[43] https://www.gov.uk/government/news/1-billion-future-high-streets-fund-expanded-to-50-more-areas

[44] https://www.gov.uk/government/news/95-million-to-revive-historic-high-streets

[45] https://www.channel4.com/news/factcheck/factcheck-johnson-on-new-3-6bn-towns-fund

[46] https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-puts-local-people-in-control-of-more-than-1-billion-with-long-term-plan-for-left-behind-towns

[47] https://dwfgroup.com/en/news-and-insights/insights/2023/10/levelling-up-fund-round-3-to-be-launched-in-november-2023#:~:text=The%20%C2%A34.8%20billion%20Levelling,the%20United%20Kingdom%20since%202021.

[48] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pride-in-place-programme-place-selection-methodology-note

[49] https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c1mx8vr2gr1o

[50] https://levellingup.campaign.gov.uk/

[51] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/towns-fund-further-guidance

[52] https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/which-areas-have-benefited-from-the-levelling-up-fund/

synopsis as soon as it can. Interestingly, much of this funding appears to be double counting and much has not yet been allocated.

The Scottish, Irish and Welsh administrations are dealing with these matters differently, and for Scotland particularly the Scotland Improvement Districts [53] is providing data.

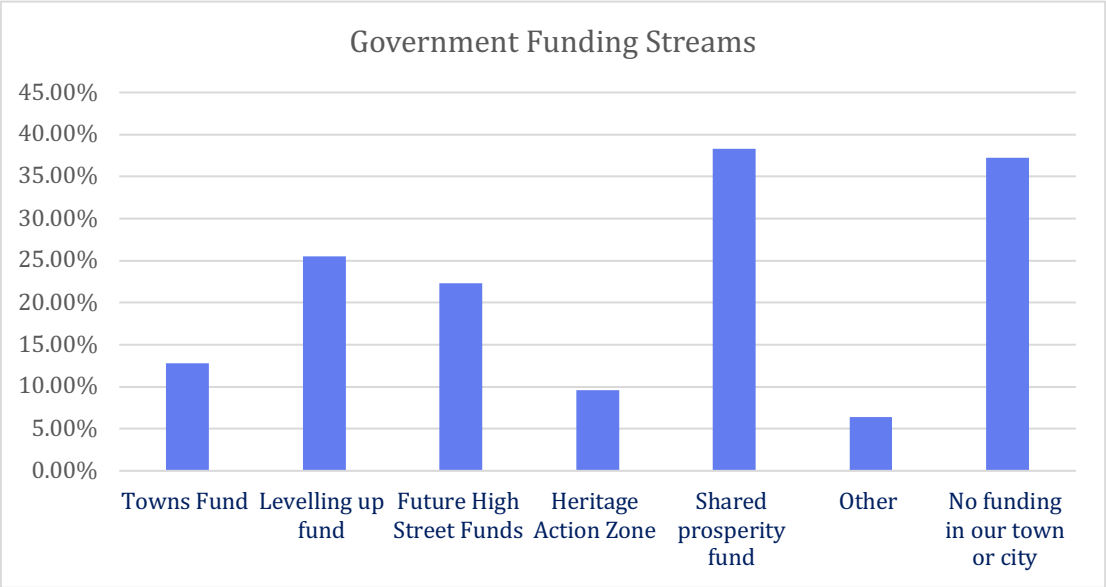
The database that British BIDs is developing for these projects suggests that there are potentially around 283 projects, with 221 high streets, town, or city BIDs involved in one or other of the funding streams, and thus far 102 of the projects have some BID involvement. We will continue to monitor as best we can the outcomes of these projects, as they clearly will be the key drivers of many of our town and city BIDs in the future.

The survey data suggest that some 72% of all BIDs are engaged in one or other of the government levelling up project lines, with some involved in several, although 37% are not expecting to receive any funding.

Many BIDs found the process of working with their local authorities challenging but ultimately useful.

There is a major concern over the future of this funding, much of which has been vital over the past few years.

Figure 40: Central government Funding % BID recipients



[53] https://improvementdistricts.scot/

Experiential activities

It was suggested that there is a move toward providing 'experiences' as part of many BIDs current activities and BIDs were asked how far they were involved in this and what sorts of tasks they were engaged in. The responses were very varied but supportive:

Improving the BID model

We are working closely with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government on how the BID model in England might be improved. BIDs were asked about the top three areas they would like to suggest for discussion and three strands emerged strongly from all respondents

Table 42 Improving the BID model

Improving the BID model	
Ballots	28.7%
Voting	20.2%
Terms	17.1%

Standards for BIDs

High standards are clearly very vital in BID delivery and management. BIDs were asked what they felt are the best ways of ensuring these high standards are maintained.

Other issues raised

BIDs were asked for any other issues they wanted to raise and the word cloud gives a sense of the major issues.

Some protocols

This National survey is both an audit or census, which involves analysing as far as possible the totality of existing data, and at the same time a service evaluation, undertaken to benefit those who use and manage BIDs. It is designed and conducted solely to define or measure current BID services across the British Isles. Our participants are entirely BID staff, the data are aggregated and anonymous, it is not possible to identify individuals from any resulting report and use of the data will not cause substantial damage and distress. All data are either provided by each BID through the on-line questionnaire, or through a phone call to the BID, or by way of publicly available validated sources from each BID by way of their business plans or websites. The final report is anonymised as to individuals, although individual BID companies may be identifiable.

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