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Business Improvement Districts in the British Isles: THE 20TH ANNUAL BID SURVEY & REPORT 2026

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Business Improvement Districts in the British Isles: The 2026 National Survey

How to read this report:

The executive summary presents the principal findings and strategic implications. The methodology explains the evidence base and its limitations. The review section sets the policy and operating context, while the subsequent chapters provide detailed benchmarking data on BID growth, ballots, finance, governance and community activity. Readers seeking a rapid overview should begin with the executive summary; practitioners and policymakers can then use the relevant thematic chapters for detailed comparison.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND KEY HEADLINES

Numbers of BIDs

At the beginning of September 2026, 355 BIDs were operating across Great Britain, Northern Ireland and Ireland, compared with 345 in the previous survey. Together, they represented 141,999 business hereditaments.

This is a net increase of 10 BIDs; 3,456 business hereditaments and £19,881,622 levy income invested in the British Isles; this is an 11.6% 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, whilst the initial fast growth has come to an end a more steady but regular development is now the norm. Each year, as some BIDs fail at ballot, more BIDs come into existence to give a regular net growth in the number of new BIDs.

Fourteen new BIDs came into being in the past twelve months since September 1, 2025, with some different types of BIDs evident. This is slightly more than previous years, and it suggests that the growth of BIDs is continuing, but more slowly.

The number of new BIDs being developed is a key strategic issue and the story here remains strong. There are currently 62 BIDs that are in the development stage, with ballots coming up in the next year or so. This is a slight reduction on the number that were developing in the last survey, and some of last year's survey have come to successful ballot, whilst new developing BIDs have emerged. This still suggests a continued enthusiasm and increasing perceived benefit to local business communities.

BID Ballots

There has been a total of 1205 BID ballots since 2004, of which 1087 have been successful, a success rate of 90.21%. 118 have been unsuccessful, a failure rate of 9.8%. 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.

The analysis of ballot outcomes by term of current 355 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.

80 BIDs have come to ballot in the past 12 months, an average of just under seven 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.

Fourteen new BIDs came into being during the past 12 months; the turnout figures were 4 percentage points below the total 12-month norm, with the votes in favour and by RV were also below the 12-month norm, at 3.1 and 1.9 percentage points respectively. Overall new first term BIDs perform less well at their first ballots compared to the more experienced BIDs.

Five BIDs 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 50% regarding their local authorities as very helpful, 40% were seen as sound and 10% were seen as unhelpful. The data suggests a 3.3 percentage point improvement in Local authorities being perceived as not very helpful; a useful outcome.

52% of BIDs [2025, 50%; 2024, 57%] of BIDs had problems with ballot papers in their ballot, and the median was some 10% of ballot papers lost, with an upper quartile losing 15%.

Most BIDs [76%] seem to be confident that they were able to produce a list of voters from their list of levy payers, although 24% were not easily able to do so.

And similarly, most BIDs 63% [2025, 63% [2024, 71%] felt that they were able to engage with national levy payers for the ballot. This is a similar figure than last year so clearly work still needs to be done.

Whilst the average turnout for all ballots over the past 21 years is 44.4%, analysis of the turnouts for the current 355 live BIDs allows a more granular picture to emerge.

The turnout performance for the current 355 BIDs is reasonable, with half of all the current BIDs obtaining a turnout of 39.8%, and 25% obtaining a turnout of at least 48.1%. The highest turnout was 82%.

BID Finances

From the current data, of 355 BIDs, 309 [82%] were using a % levy rate, with an average of 1.6% [2025; 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 [9.8%] use a banded approach and 16 [4.6%] use a variable approach. The new Accommodation BIDs use a nightly rate %.

The distribution of hereditaments suggests that half of all BIDs have fewer than 370 hereditaments, the largest number remains at 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 141,999, an increase of 3456 from last year.

From the population of 355 BIDs, the total BID levy income raised and spent across the British Isles is £189,810,605 [2025, £169,928,983; 2024, £154,620,538; 2023, £150,316,106] an increase of 11.7% [£19,881,622] 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 £6,100,000 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 £301,000 or less; and 75% of all BIDs having a levy income of £577,000 or less.

There are now 43 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 for a single BID is now £6,100,000 [2025, £4,600,000; 2024, £4,100,000]

The data from the survey this year shows an increase in amounts raised with a median figure for additional external income in a BID of £83,000 and at a total of £42,845,910 a 96-percentage point increase on last year's £21,758,676

Some 37% of the BID industry [2025, 43.8%; 2024, 40%; 2023, 35%; 2022, 48%; 2021, 51.9%] 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 Pride in Place, Town Fund and levelling up applications, but the amounts of money and the time scales are not easy to track. Currently, from the Town Funding alone some £3.6 billion is being spent over a five-year period, affecting some 50% BIDs, and Pride in Place funding, which has replaced it, is being similarly used.

The eight-year data for all BID income and leveraged investment expenditure is a positive story, with a current estimated global projection of £353,373,166; showing growth in levy income, additional entrepreneurial income and increased leveraged inward investment. This inward investment data has now been smoothed over a five-year period, as some of the projects were fairly long-term ones.

This year 50% are applying an annual inflation factor, an increase of 8.2 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%].

Many BIDs [49%] 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 [45%] 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, 17% 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 £8,750.

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.

BID Governance and Management

BIDs employed some 1,368 full-time equivalent staff.

Whilst the median staffing level for a BID is now 2.5, the range is wide, with a high of 21 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, from almost exactly 50:50 male: female in 2019, to 55:45 female: male in 2025 and 2026. Sadly, our analysis is not yet able to handle gender fluidity.

From the survey response, external staff, that is staff working for the BID but not on payroll, are used by 80% BIDs; 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% of BIDs describe themselves as being fully managed in this fashion and over 40% have made use of consultants to either set up or help manage BIDs. 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 3,130 [2025, 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 rules of good corporate governance.

60% of BIDs reported having some form of property ownership involved in their Boards, with a median number of 1 and a maximum of 8; and there are 524 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 71% of BIDs have Local Authority representation, and there are 248
Local Authority Board members across the industry. The median membership number is 1 Local Authority representative

36% of BID Boards have local community representation, such as Civic Trust 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.

The median number of women on BID boards is 4, the highest is 10 and there are 1,217 women on BID boards across the British Isles out of 3,130 directors.

On the matter of ethnic diversity, the responses identified 228 black, Asian and minority ethnic directors across the British Isles, with 61% of BIDs having such representation

90% of BIDs make their accounts publicly available to their levy payers. Of course, Companies House requires that all registered companies lodge accounts with them.

Each BID needs an operating agreement with its local authority; 94% of BIDs have an operating agreement with its local authority, but some still don't have them.

Some 77% [of BIDs feel that their agreements work well or moderately well; but some 32% 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.

Community and strategic matters

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

42% of BIDs were engaging with ESG issues for either themselves or their levy payers and the responses in the survey were wide ranging.

BIDs were asked about the Overnight Visitor Levy is being proposed by government, and whether this will cause them concerns. Clearly there are worries in 58% of responses

52% 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 [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.

Most BIDs [80%] are involved in their Business Crime Reduction Partnerships, Pub and Shop Watch and other local policing projects. This is an 11.6 percentage point increase on three years ago and is indicative of the growing importance of BCRPs.

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.

The survey data suggest that some 75% of all BIDs are engaged in one or other of the government levelling up project lines, with some involved in several, although 34% are not expecting to receive any funding.

The purpose of the 20th National Survey 2026

The twelve months since the last survey continue to be turbulent. A change of government leadership has brought about a review of 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].

Two years ago, 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

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

people living, working and visiting [2]. There was a concern that the move of the minister for High Street and BIDs to another department as part of re-organisation following the appointment of a new Secretary of State, and the appointment of three new junior ministers [3] along with a new Minister [4] for the High Street and BIDs, to the ministerial team meant that might be a new learning process in the early part of the next 12 months before any new views on BIDs emerges.

However, the publication of the High Street Strategy on October 28th is an important moment in the year[5].

This 20th annual national survey provides a current evidence base for several audiences. It gives local and national policymakers a snapshot of the BID community across the British Isles; enables BID chief executives and Boards to benchmark performance and identify key indicators; helps levy payers and BID members assess whether expected services are being delivered; and supports new and developing BIDs in designing effective services and operations.

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 in this changing time.

The previous sixteen 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.

Business Improvement Districts 2025-2026: a review

British BIDs produce a regular monthly Insight [7] 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.

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[2] https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/business-in-the-community-speech-2-june-2026
[3] https://chelgatelocal.co.uk/mhclg-ministerial-team/
[4] https://www.gov.uk/government/people/jim-mcmahon
[5] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/hope-on-the-high-street
[6] https://britishbids.info/services/national-bid-survey
[7] https://britishbids.info/search-results?q=insights

Sector Context and Performance

This annual review sets out how Business Improvement Districts have continued to demonstrate resilience, adaptability and strategic relevance during a period of political, fiscal and economic change. It highlights the sector's performance, the evolving policy environment, pressures on business affordability, the importance of high streets and visitor economies, and the growing role of BIDs in safety, evidence-led place management and future local growth.

The 2025–2026 period has been one of significant change, challenge and opportunity for Business Improvement Districts across the British Isles. Against a backdrop of political transition, fiscal pressure, local government reform and evolving expectations of high streets and town centres, BIDs have continued to demonstrate their practical value as locally rooted, business-led partnerships. The sector has grown in scale and confidence, with 355 BIDs now operating across the British Isles and investing substantial annual resources into local economies, public realm improvements, business support, safety, marketing, events and place management.

Ballots, Renewals and BID Model Development

That resilience was most clearly demonstrated through the year's ballot activity. A strong run of successful renewals and new BID approvals, including both occupier and property-owner models, showed continued confidence from levy payers in the BID mechanism. The emergence of new BIDs, the renewal of established ones and the development of innovative levy models all underline the adaptability of the sector. Industrial BIDs, accommodation BIDs, tourism-focused BIDs and city-centre partnerships have each shown that the model can respond to very different local economies while retaining a shared focus on additionality, accountability and business leadership.

Policy, Devolution and Local Government Reform

Government policy was the defining context for much of the year. Changes in ministerial responsibility, the development of the English Devolution and Community Empowerment agenda, the emergence of new strategic authorities and now the hold on local government reorganisation have created a more complex operating environment for BIDs [8]. The immediate risks are practical and significant, particularly around local authority relationships, billing

[8] https://www.local.gov.uk/parliament/briefings-and-responses/english-devolution-and-community-empowerment-bill-lga-briefing-0

arrangements, levy collection, ballots and economic development structures. At the same time, these reforms create opportunities for BIDs to position themselves as delivery partners within wider local growth, regeneration and place-shaping strategies.

Business Rates and Local Taxation

Business rates remained the most persistent strategic concern. The 2026 revaluation, the ongoing debate about the fairness of the system and the pressure on bricks-and-mortar businesses continued to dominate discussions with levy payers and government. The review of rateable values has required BIDs to work closely with local authority taxation teams and to model the potential impact on levy income and business affordability. The wider argument advanced throughout the year is that business rates cannot be considered in isolation: reform of council tax[9] and the broader local taxation base is essential if pressure on businesses is to be reduced in a sustainable way

High Streets, Place Leadership and Local Growth

High streets, town centres and local economies remained at the heart of the BID agenda. The government's Pride in Place programme [10], proposed High Streets Strategy[11], Neighbourhood Guarantee, high street inquiry and local growth planning framework all reinforced the importance of place-based leadership. BIDs have been presented with clear opportunities to contribute evidence, case studies and practical delivery experience. The year's debate moved beyond simply restricting undesirable uses, such as vape shops, gambling premises or poor-quality operators, towards a more ambitious question: how places create the right conditions for good businesses, confident investment, safer streets, stronger communities and long-term vitality.

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[9] https://ifs.org.uk/sites/default/files/output_url_files/Summary-Revaluation-and-reform-bringing-council-tax-in-England-into-the-21st-century.pdf

[10] https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/68d65f83c908572e81248d46/Pride_in_Place_Strategy.pdf

[11] https://mhclgmedia.blog.gov.uk/2026/08/11/what-the-government-is-doing-to-improve-your-high-streets/

Tourism and the Visitor Economy

Tourism and visitor economy policy also became increasingly important. Proposals for overnight visitor levies[12] in England, alongside existing or emerging arrangements in Scotland and Wales, created both concern and opportunity for tourism-related BIDs and accommodation businesses. The consultation process raised questions about scope, exemptions, governance, revenue use and the relationship between mayoral authorities, local authorities, businesses and BIDs. For many places, the key issue will be ensuring that any levy income is reinvested transparently and visibly in the destinations and communities that generate it.

Safety, Security and Business Crime

Safety, security and business crime formed another major theme. Retail crime, anti-social behaviour, serious and organised crime, counter-terrorism preparedness and Martyn's Law all featured prominently. Many BIDs are already involved in business crime reduction partnerships, PubWatch schemes, night-time economy management, counter-terrorism briefings and local safety initiatives. The publication of new policing reforms, retail crime strategies, ProtectUK guidance and practical tools such as *Guide Shelter Report* [13] and the NaCTSO Roadmap show that BID teams will continue to play a vital role in helping businesses prepare, respond and collaborate with enforcement agencies.

Data, Evidence and Professional Standards

Data, evidence and evaluation became increasingly central to effective place management. Footfall analysis, ONS high street data, local authority expenditure information, census insights and place-based research all provide BIDs with stronger tools to understand change, benchmark performance and demonstrate impact. The continued growth of training, accreditation, professional development and monitoring practice reflects a sector increasingly focused on standards, transparency and measurable outcomes.

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[12] https://www.gov.uk/government/news/levy-on-overnight-trips-will-help-mayors-invest-in-local-growth

[13] https://www.protectuk.police.uk/gsr

Conclusion and Future Priorities

Across the year, the core message is clear: BIDs remain a practical, proven and adaptable model for local economic stewardship. They sit at the intersection of business, local government, policing, property, tourism, transport, culture and community life. As government policy continues to shift towards devolution, local growth, civic renewal and high street revitalisation, the BID sector has both a responsibility and an opportunity to shape the agenda. The year ahead will require careful engagement with new political structures, close attention to business affordability, strong evidence of impact and continued collaboration across public and private partners. If BIDs continue to combine local knowledge with professional standards and strategic ambition, they will remain central to building safer, stronger and more successful places.

EVIDENCE OF BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS SUCCESS

The original work[14] on BIDs in England, at their inception, led by Professor Tony Travers, examined the operation and impact of BIDs and suggested that BIDs would, if introduced, allow traditional high streets to compete on even terms with malls and other privatised spaces. There are now 355 BIDs in the British Isles and 295 in England and British BIDs believes that they make a huge difference in their both revitalising and keeping their towns and cities energised and successful.

Crime

The data from around the world and in England, evidences the reductions in Crime,[15],[16],[17],[18] and the narrative is very clear; BIDs do reduce crime in their communities. The pattern across the literature is fairly consistent: there is strong evidence for reductions in property crime, shoplifting, ASB, and disorder; whilst there is mixed evidence for violent crime. The mechanism most consistently

[14] https://www.lse.ac.uk/research/research-impact-case-studies/reviving-british-town-centres-high-streets
[15] https://openaccess.city.ac.uk/id/eprint/28958/
[16] https://stacks.cdc.gov/view/cdc/22870
[17] https://pure.psu.edu/en/publications/the-effects-of-business-improvement-districts-in-reducing-nuisanc/
[18] https://link.springer.com/article/10.1057/s41300-024-00214-7

cited is partnership-based crime prevention investment rather than BID status alone.

Over 80% of BIDs are involved in their Business Crime Reduction Partnerships, Pub and Shop Watch and other local policing projects. 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.

Footfall

On footfall, the data is more anecdotal, with a strong practitioner consensus, and some data driven research [19] suggesting well-run BIDs report footfall growth of 5–10% above comparable areas, attributed to events, improved street maintenance, and coordinated marketing.

Labour productivity

On business improvement more generally, the data [20] suggests that they increase labour productivity within the BID by about 7%.

Surveys [21] routinely show 70–80% of levy-payers feel their BID offers good value, citing better communication channels and more responsive local services.

Vacancies, occupancy and business rates

Whilst there are no specific data on the BID effect on vacancy or occupancy specifically, there is a strong causal evidence on what *does* affect it.

Research [22] on business rate reliefs found a one percentage point reduction in the tax rate due to Small Business Rate Relief reduces the vacancy rate by 1.1%, implying SBRR reduces the vacancy rate of properties that qualified for full relief by 54% compared with if there is no relief.

Data suggests that Small Business Rates Relief is more effective in both boosting small business occupancy rates and reducing vacancy rates on high streets,

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[19] https://www.easternpowerhouse.uk/post/how-are-business-improvement-districts-working-in-the-east-of-england
[20] https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/00343404.2023.2228353
[21] https://www.easternpowerhouse.uk/post/how-are-business-improvement-districts-working-in-the-east-of-england
[22] https://oxfordtax.sbs.ox.ac.uk/files/wp20-18pdf

possibly due to positive spillovers from occupancy for smaller businesses in a cluster, such as greater footfall University of Warwick.

Place making

BIDs are thus a vital tool [23] for enhancing the physical appearance, bringing in more foot traffic and increasing the property value in their districts.

They can also be a driver for complete transformation of a district by raising the property values [24] [25].

[23] https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/23311975.2018.1502241#abstract
[24] https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/23311975.2018.1502241#abstract
[25] https://www.surrey.ac.uk/sites/default/files/2023-04/DP05-23.pdf

Business Improvement Districts in the British Isles September 2026

The BID community in Great Britain & Northern Ireland and Ireland totals 355 [345 in the last survey] at the beginning of September 2026, representing 141,999 [2025,138,543; 2024,134,098] business hereditaments, investing £189,810,605 [2025, £169,928,983 ;2024, £154,620,538] into their local economies.

This is a net increase of 10 BIDs, 3,456 business hereditaments and £19,881,622 levy income invested in the British Isles [2024, six BIDs, 1,136 businesses and £1,633,378]; this is an 11.6% 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 owner BIDs. Both the latter are taking some time to take off, due in part to the emergence of Overnight Visitor Levies and the current restriction of Property Owner BIDs to areas with Business Rates Supplements.

The variety in the types of BID, shows 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 Property Owner, Accommodation and new larger boundary BIDs becoming evident.

British BIDs have regular meetings of national groupings of BIDs in Industrial[26] areas which are well attended and very successful in bringing together specific and specialist issues.

Table 1: Types of active BID across the British Isles on September 1, 2026

Type of BID	BIDs	NO OF HEREDITAMENTS	£ Levy income
Accommodation	2	161	£8,342,775
Area Bid	29	12,332	£35,545,659
Business Park	13	2,734	£3,484,955
City Centre	43	28,132	£36,212,812
Commercial	3	1,308	£4,337,443
Culture & Commerce	1	434	£1,910,120
Destination	3	2,351	£1,180,000
Food & Drink	1	40	£14,639
Industrial	13	2,811	£2,333,968
Industrial Park	3	378	£418,382

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

Industrial/Business Parks	1	300	£120,000
Leisure	2	389	£2,477,811
Mixed Area	21	7,203	£22,725,051
Property Owner	6	1,089	£11,012,659
Retail	1	418	£745,623
Retail & Leisure	2	1,001	£1,097,454
Tourism	7	3,314	£2,359,855
Town Centre	202	76,404	£54,860,016
Town Centre/Tourism	2	1,200	£631,383
Grand Total	**355**	**141,999**	**£189,810,605**

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 across the regions and countries.

Table 2: National and regional data for BIDs 2026

Countries and Regions	Numbers of BIDs	HEREDITAMENTS	LEVYINCOME	% levy income
East Midlands	11	6,062	£5,271,628	2.8%
East of England	30	11,913	£9,689,764	5.1%
Greater London	83	26,292	£74,368,940	39.2%
Ireland	5	6,836	£5,390,155	2.8%
North East England	7	2,897	£3,483,226	1.8%
North West England	38	13,940	£22,232,921	11.7%
Northern Ireland	8	3,252	£3,071,312	1.6%
Scotland	36	11,655	£9,521,291	5.0%
South East England	44	17,803	£16,168,097	8.5%
South West England	32	15,876	£13,635,488	7.2%
Wales	11	4,779	£4,135,968	2.2%
West Midlands	33	13,397	£12,439,715	6.6%

Yorkshire and the Humber	17	7,297	£10,402,100	5.5%
Grand Total	**355**	**141,999**	**£189,810,605**	100.0%

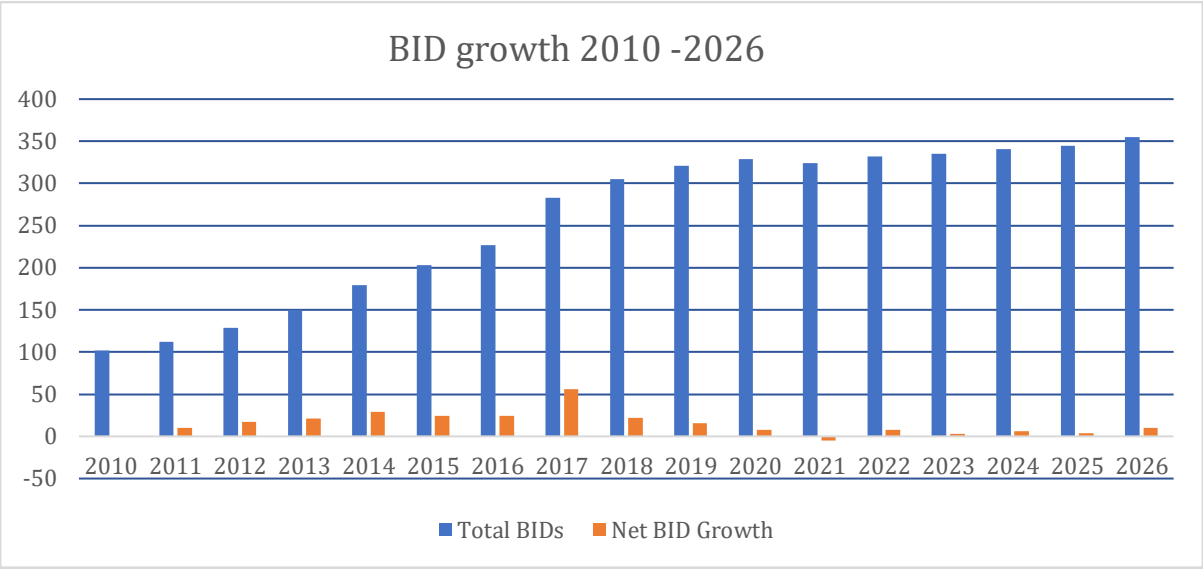
Annual change in BID numbers 2010-2026

The emergence of new BIDs has been impressive since the first BID became operational in 2005. In the past twenty-one 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 whilst the initial fast growth has come to an end a more steady but regular development is now the norm. Each year, as some BIDs fail at ballot, more BIDs come into existence to give a regular net growth in the number of new BIDs.

Table 3: Growth of BIDs by number 2010-2026

Survey year	Number of BIDs	Net Growth in BIDs	Total Levy Investment	Total Hereditaments	Investment per hereditament
2010	102		23,483,888		
2011	112	10	22,085,567	19,353	£1,141
2012	129	17	39,883,454	54,110	£737
2013	150	21	51,847,486	64,150	£808
2014	179	29	63,000,000	59,771	£1,054
2015	203	24	80,124,969	71,703	£1,117
2016	227	24	78,659,124	78,549	£1,001
2017	283	56	99,971,741	106,262	£941
2018	305	22	110,575,380	120,735	£916
2019	321	16	125,205,608	128,785	£972
2020	329	8	132,493,286	133,163	£995
2021	324	-5	134,979,983	125,023	£1,080
2022	332	8	144,735,669	121,485	£1,191
2023	335	3	150,316,106	132,962	£1,131
2024	341	6	154,620,538	134,098	£1,153
2025	345	4	169,928,983	138,543	£1,227
2026	355	10	189,810,605	141,999	£1,337

Figure 2: Total number of BIDs and net BID growth 2010-2026



New BIDs 2025-26

Fourteen [2025,10; 2024, 12] new BIDs came into being in the past twelve months since September 1, 2025, with some different types of BIDs evident. This is slightly more than previous years, and it suggests that the growth of BIDs is continuing, but more slowly.

Table 4: New BIDs in 2025-6 by type

BID TYPE	Count	TURNOUT	IN FAVOUR BY NUMBER	IN FAVOURBY RV
Area Bid	3	50.2	88.7	91.8
City Centre	4	31.6	77.9	84.3
Commercial	1	27.4	71.0	87.0
Mixed Area	1		72.5	64.2
Property Owner	1	64.8	75.6	80.6
Town Centre	4	26.0	81.2	80.3
Grand Total	**14**	**36.4**	**80.1**	**83.2**

Developing BIDs 2026

The number of new BIDs being developed is a key strategic issue and the story here remains strong. There are currently 62 [2025, 69; 2024, 60] BIDs that are in the development stage, with ballots coming up in the next year or so. This is a slight reduction on the number that were developing in the last survey, and some of last year's survey have come to successful ballot, whilst new developing

BIDs have emerged. This still 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 62 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

Countries and Regions	Count
East Midlands	3
East of England	4
Greater London	8
North West England	3
Northern Ireland	2
Scotland	12
South East England	11
South West England	7
Wales	3
West Midlands	6
Yorkshire and the Humber	3
Grand Total	**62**

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

We continue to 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, and specifically mentioned it in the British BIDs response[27] to the House of Commons HCLG Committee inquiry on *Revitalising the High Street*. 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

[27] https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wiTJqpWUZFf0sm5hfug9iQM1Cq261_Lv/view?usp=drive_link

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

BID Ballot matters

Under the Local Government Act 2003 Part 4 [28], and the various Acts of the countries in the British Isles, and the appropriate Regulations in England[29], Scotland[30], Wales[31], Northern Ireland[32], and the Irish Republic [33], 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 355 BIDs, there will be some 71 ballots a year, an average of nearly six per month. Most ballots tend to take place in the

[28] https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2003/26/part/4
[29] https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2004/2443/contents/made
[30] https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2007/202/contents/made
[31] https://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2005/1312/contents/made
[32] https://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisr/2014/143/contents/made
[33] https://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2006/act/42/section/6/enacted/en/html

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 – 2026

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 indicate that there has been a total of 1205 [2025, 1,109; 2024, 1,057] BID ballots, of which 1087 have been successful, a success rate of 90.21%. 118 have been unsuccessful, a failure rate of 9.8%. 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.

Table 6: All BIDs ballot outcomes 2004-2026 showing outcomes by %

BID TERM	Number of ballots	Average TURNOUT %	Average IN FAVOUR BY NUMBER %	Average IN FAVOUR BY RV %
1ST TERM	435	42.1	74.0	76.4
2ND TERM	315	45.4	76.0	80.4
3RD TERM	212	44.7	82.5	85.9
4TH TERM	91	43.4	84.0	88.4
5TH TERM	25	45.7	88.1	91.0
6TH TERM	1	41.8	98.9	99.5
Alteration Ballot	2	53.0	59.1	60.0
Challenge Upheld	1	31.0	68.0	90.0
Challenged and a reballot held	1		51.0	55.0
Did not go to ballot in 2021 for new term.	1			
UNSUCCESSFUL	118	46.1	45.8	47.9
Successful but void	2		73.0	79.81
Ballot suspended due to COVID-19	1			
Grand Total	**1205**	**43.9**	**74.4**	**77.8**

Ballots for Current BIDs 2026

The analysis of ballot outcomes by term of current 355 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 355 BIDs, show that whilst the ballot outcomes by number are 6.5 and by RV are 7.1 percentage points above the 20-year averages, the turnout is 3.3 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 355 BIDs, averaged by term

BID Term	BIDs	Average TURNOUT %	Average IN FAVOUR BY RV %	IN FAVOUR BY NUMBER %
1ST TERM	55	35.4	80.6	77.4
2ND TERM	94	39.6	81.8	76.6
3RD TERM	117	41.5	87.0	83.3
4TH TERM	63	42.5	87.6	83.3
5TH TERM	24	45.8	90.6	87.6
6TH TERM	1	41.8	99.5	98.9
Alteration Ballot	1	53.0	60.0	59.1
Grand Total	**355**	**40.6**	**84.9**	**80.9**

Mandate data

A new data set that we are exploring is that of the mandate that a ballot indicates. This figure is the average turnout * the average in favour by number over the total number of hereditaments in the BID. Thus, a Mandate figure of 37% shows that 37% of the total hereditaments in the BID have voted in favour. It is again clear that over a period of time, BIDs improve their overall mandate with the more experience BIDs reaching levels of 41% of their total levy payers voting in favour of the BID. The highest mandate was a figure of 79.3% of hereditaments.

Ballots during the past twelve months 2025-6

80 BIDs [2025, 64; 2024, 74] have come to ballot in the past 12 months, an average of just under seven 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.

CURRENT TERM	Count	TURNOUT %	IN FAVOUR BY RV %	IN FAVOUR BY NUMBER %
1ST TERM	14	36.4	83.2	80.1
2ND TERM	6	39.8	85.6	76.8
3RD TERM	28	39.8	90.2	84.0
4TH TERM	14	39.4	87.6	84.7
5TH TERM	12	45.4	89.3	85.9
6TH TERM	1	41.8	99.5	98.9
UNSUCCESSFUL	5	47.3	45.1	35.8
Grand Total	**80**	**40.4**	**85.1**	**80.3**

The ballot data for many BIDs, particularly those in their fourth and fifth terms give a 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 3.5 percentage points lower but votes by number and rateable value have been 3.3 and 5.9 percentage points higher. This suggests that over time BIDs are performing better at ballots.

New BIDs ballot data 2025-6

Fourteen new BIDs came into being during the past 12 months; the turnout figures were 4 percentage points below the total 12-month norm, with the votes in favour and by RV were also below the 12-month norm, at 3.1 and 1.9 percentage points respectively. Overall new first term BIDs perform less well at their first ballots compared to the more experienced BIDs.

Table 9: New BIDs Ballot data 2025-6

BID TYPE	Count	TURNOUT %	IN FAVOUR BY NUMBER %	INFAVOUR BY RV %
Area Bid	3	50.2	88.7	91.8
City Centre	4	31.6	77.9	84.3
Commercial	1	27.4	71.0	87.0
Mixed Area	1		72.5	64.2

Property Owner	1	64.8	75.6	80.6
Town Centre	4	26.0	81.2	80.3
Grand Total	14	36.4	80.1	83.2

Failed BIDs last twelve months 2025-6

Five BIDs failed at ballot during 2025–2026, compared with eight in 2025 and five in 2024. Against 80 ballots held in the past 12 months, this represents a failure rate of 6.25%, which remains below the 21-year average of 9.8%.

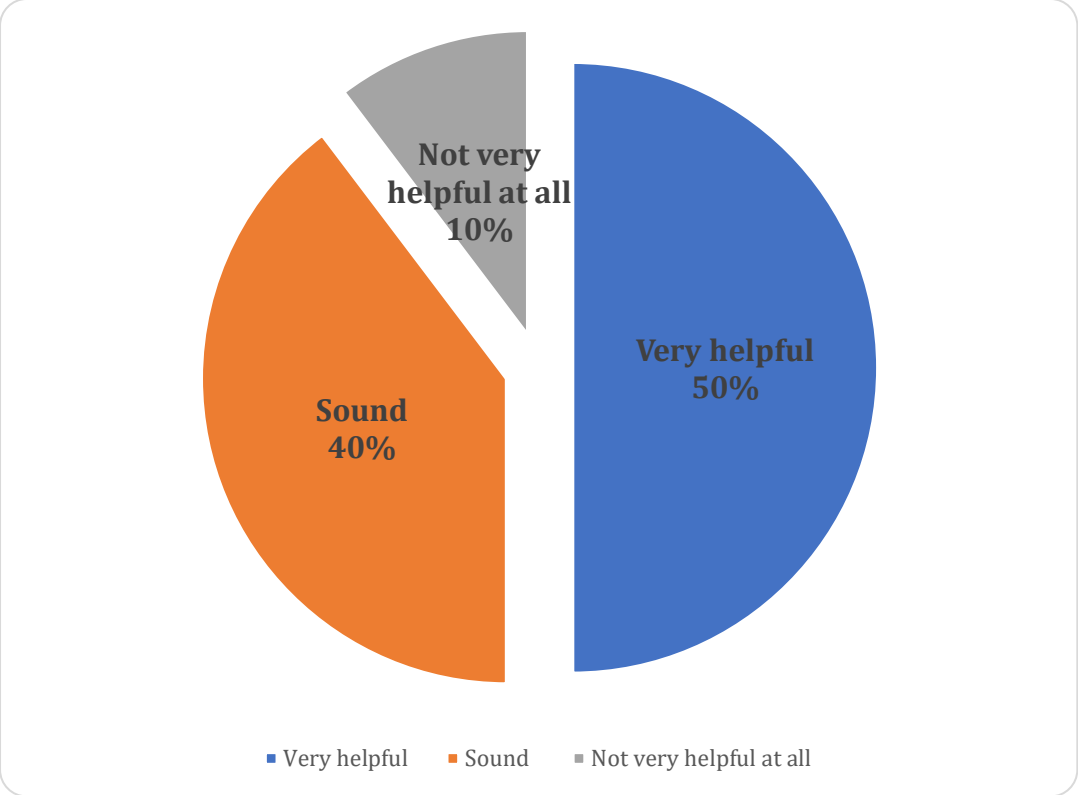
Table 10: Failed ballots 2025-2026

BID TYPE	Count	TURNOUT %	IN FAVOUR BY NUMBER %	IN FAVOUR BY RV %
Accommodation	1	73.3	45.5	44.0
Town Centre	4	38.6	33.3	45.4
Grand Total	**5**	**47.3**	**35.8**	**45.1**

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 50% regarding their local authorities as very helpful, 40% were seen as sound and 10% were seen as unhelpful. The data suggests a 3.3 percentage point improvement in Local authorities being perceived as not very helpful; a useful outcome.

Figure 3 Perceived local authority support in the ballot



Ballot papers

BIDs were asked if they had problems with ballot papers in their ballot. 52% of BIDs [2025, 50%; 2024, 57%] of BIDs had problems with ballot papers in their ballot, and the median was some 10% of ballot papers lost, with an upper quartile losing 15%.

This is clearly a major concern; for both BIDs and Local Authorities, and mirrors some of concerns expressed in a House of Commons paper on absent voting [34] . Clearly, a move toward electronic voting would go some way to resolve these issues.

[34] https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-7419/CBP-7419.pdf

Figure 4 Ballot paper problems

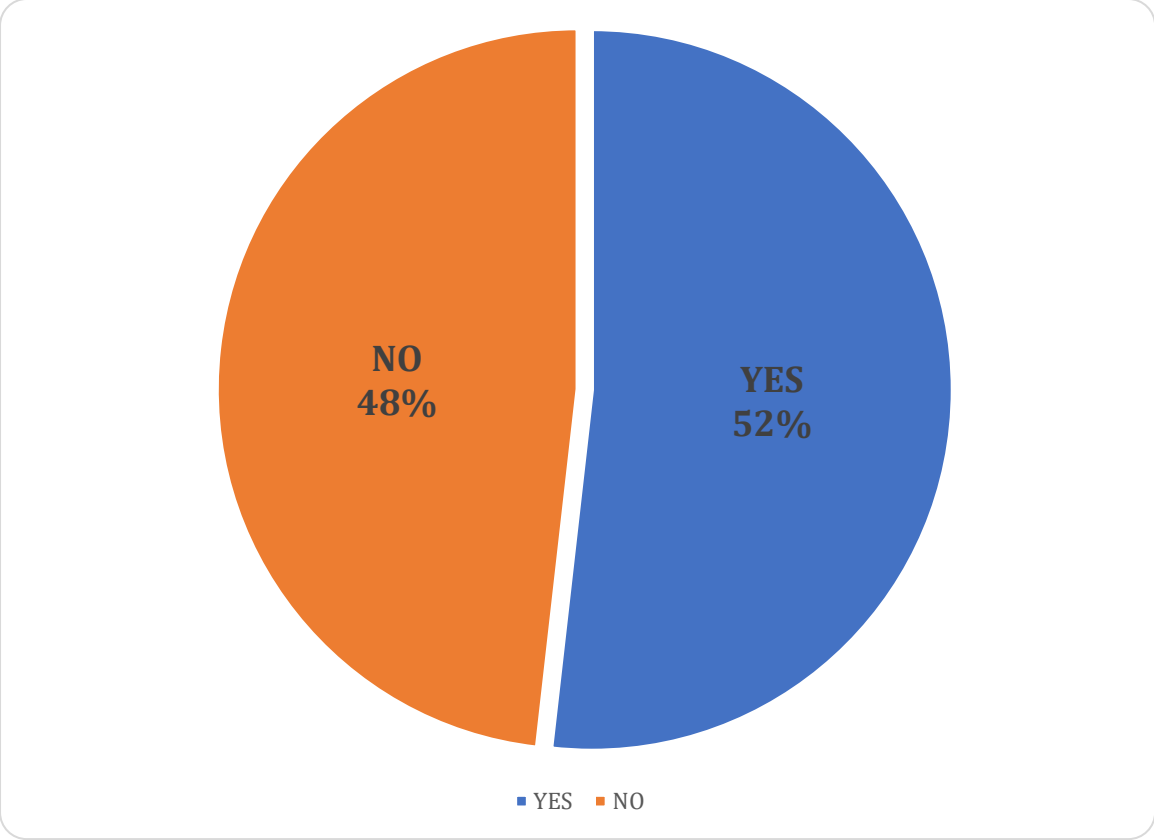


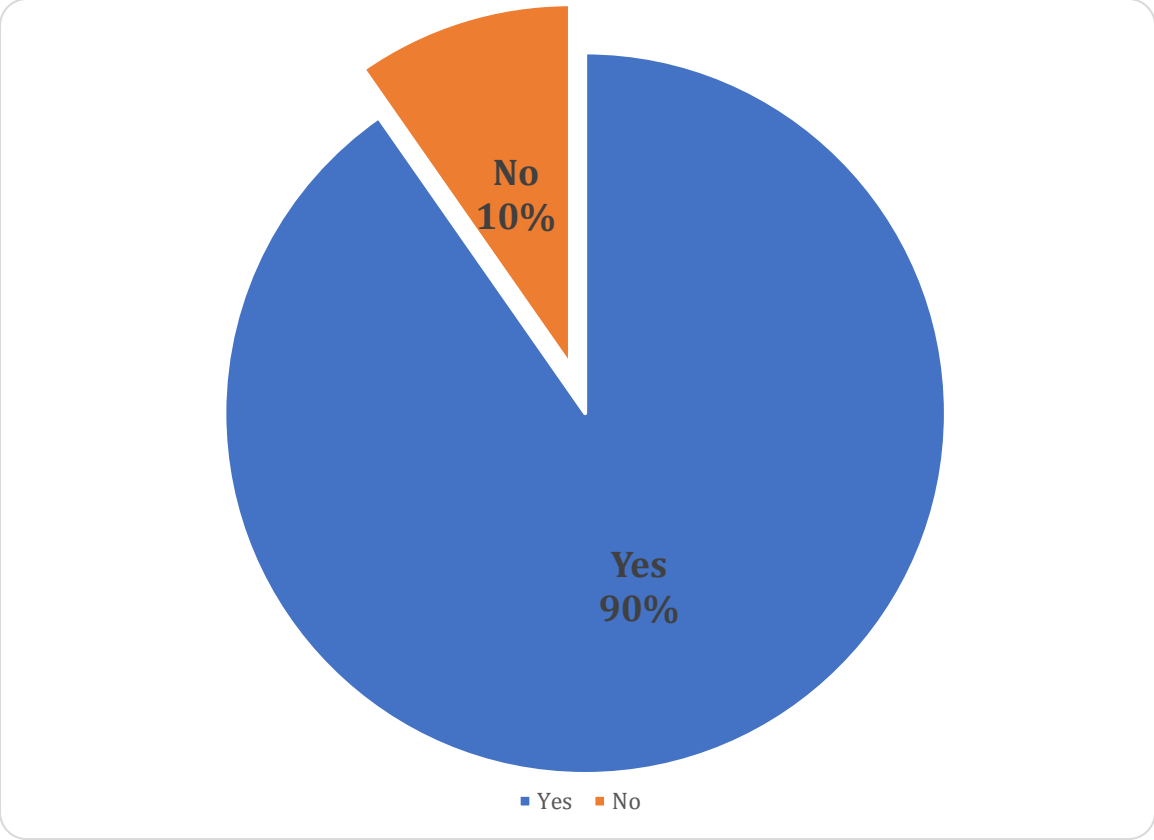
Table 11 Estimated lost ballot papers in ballots

Estimated lost ballot papers in ballots	% Lost
Lowest	0.00
Lower quartile	3.00
Median	10.00
Upper Quartile	15.00
Largest	50.00

Electronic Balloting

We are working with the Ministry to explore the use of electronic balloting as a solution to many of these ballot issues. 90% of BIDs believe that this would be helpful.

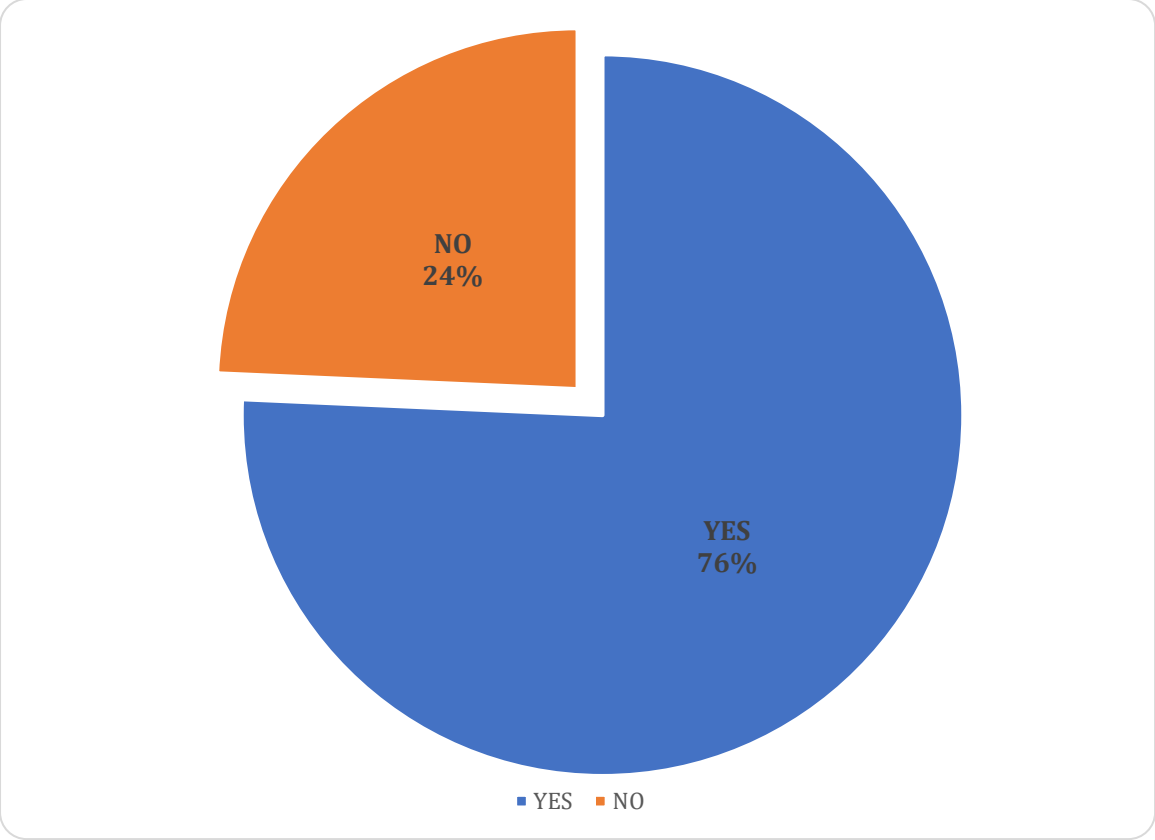
Figure 5 Electronic balloting



Obtaining voter data

Most BIDs [76%] seem to be confident that they were able to produce a list of voters from their list of levy payers, although 24% were not easily able to do so.

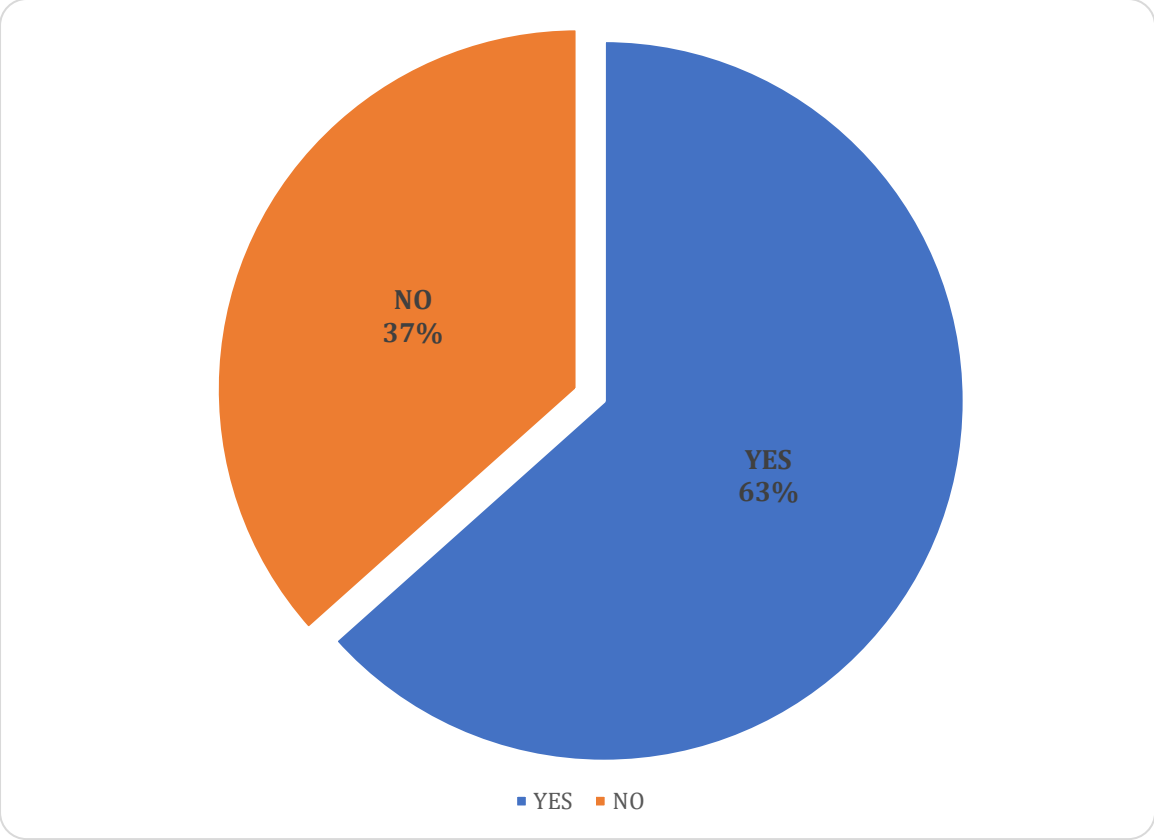
Figure 6 Ease of producing voter lists



Engaging with National levy payers

And similarly, most BIDs 63% [2025, 63%; 2024, 71%] felt that they were able to engage with national levy payers for the ballot. This is a similar figure to last year so clearly work still needs to be done.

Figure 7 Ease of engaging with national levy payers.



Statistical measures for all 355 current BID ballots

The minima, quartiles and maxima data sets are key performance measures for BIDs, 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 355 live BIDs allows a more granular picture to emerge.

The turnout performance for the current 355 BIDs shows that half of all the current BIDs obtained a turnout of 39.8%, and 25% obtained a turnout of at least 48.1%. The highest turnout was 82%.

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[35]. The average turnout in local elections in England in 2023 was 32%[36]. The average turnout for BIDs is thus some 7.8 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.

Mandate data

As we said earlier, a new data set that we are exploring is that of the mandate that a ballot indicates. This figure is the average turnout * the average in favour by number/total number of hereditaments in the BID. Thus, a Mandate figure of 37% shows that 37% of the total hereditaments in the BID have voted in favour. It is again clear that over a period of time, BIDs improve their overall mandate with the more experience BIDs reaching levels of 41% of their total levy payers voting in favour of the BID and the highest achieving a 79% Mandate figure.

Most successful ballots 2004-2026

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.

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

Table 12: The 'Maximum' ballot data for any BID 2004-2025

Terms	Count	Max TURNOUT	Max INFAVOUR BY RV	Max IN FAVOUR BY NUMBER
1ST TERM	435	88	99.42	99
2ND TERM	315	83.89	99.8	98.64
3RD TERM	212	80	100	100
4TH TERM	91	69	99.7	98
5TH TERM	25	72	99.7	99.5
6TH TERM	1	41.78	99.45	98.85
Alteration Ballot	2	53	59.96	59.1
Ballot suspended due to COVID-19	1			
Challenge Upheld	1	31	90	68
Challenged and a reballot held	1		55	51
Did not go to ballot in 2021 for new term.	1			
Successful but void	2		84	75.32
UNSUCCESSFUL	118	81	82.18	84
Grand Total	1205	88	100	100

Failed BID ballots 2004-2026

118 BIDs have failed in their ballots over the last twenty-one years, 9.7% 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 13: Failed BIDs at ballot over 22 Years 2004-2026

Type of BID	Count	Average TURNOUT	Average IN FAVOUR BY NUMBER	Average IN FAVOUR BY RV
Accommodation	2	68.1	36.4	34.2
Area Bid	4	50.4	46.0	48.1
City Centre	2	37.2	52.4	58.6
Destination	3	36.9	43.8	43.1
Industrial	9	64.8	43.2	37.9
Industrial Park	1	57.0	42.0	62.0
Retail & Leisure	1	36.0	51.0	47.0
Retail & Tourism	2	47.5	45.8	68.4
Tourism	3	62.5	36.8	58.8
Town Centre	90	43.4	46.5	47.6
Grand Total	117	46.2	45.8	47.8

Financial Matters

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

Levy Rate % for BIDs in 2026

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 necessarily 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 355 BIDs, 309 [82%] were using a % levy rate, with an average of 1.6% [2025, 1.5%], although still a median of 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 [9.8%] use a banded approach and 16 [4.6%] use a variable approach. The new Accommodation BIDs use a nightly rate %.

Table 14: % Levy rates of 355 current BIDs by Type of BID

Type of BID	Count	Average BID LEVY %	Max. BID LEVY %	Min BID LEVY %
Accommodation	2			
Area Bid	29	1.3	2	0.019
Business Park	13	1.7	4.21	0.55
City Centre	43	1.7	4.5	1
Commercial	3	1.5	2	1
Culture & Commerce	1	2.0	2	2
Destination	3	1.9	2	1.75
Food & Drink	1			
Industrial	13	2.0	6	1
Industrial Park	3	1.3	1.3	1.3
Industrial/Business Parks	1			
Leisure	2	1.2	1.2	1.15
Mixed Area	21	1.1	2	0.8
Property Owner	6	1.4	1.5	1
Retail	1	1.5	1.5	1.5
Retail & Leisure	2	2.0	2	1.9
Tourism	7	2.1	2.5	1.75
Town Centre	202	1.7	3.5	0.0094
Town Centre/Tourism	2	1.5	1.5	1.5
Grand Total	355	1.6	6	0.0094

Again, the spread and deviation of levy rates show a median of 1.5%, with the largest at 6%, and 20 now BIDs with levy rate of greater than 2%. The larger RVs in London have enabled BIDs there to use lower % levy rates.

Table 15: Range of levy % across 355 current BIDs

BID Levy %	
Bottom quartile	1.4
Median	1.5
Upper quartile	1.95
Highest	6

Hereditaments

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

The distribution of hereditaments suggests that half of all BIDs have fewer than 370 hereditaments [2025, 369; 2024, 377; 2023, 385], the largest number remains at 2,500 and currently nine BIDs have more than 1,000 hereditaments.

Table 16: The range of Hereditaments in current BIDs

Measure	Hereditaments
Lower Quartile	**244**
Median	**370**
Upper Quartile	**500**
Highest	**2500**

Table 17: Distribution of hereditaments and spend across different types of BIDs

Type of BID	BIDs	NO OF HEREDITAMENTS	£ Levy income	% Total income	% total Hereditaments
Accommodation	2	161	£8,342,775	4.4%	0.1%
Area Bid	29	12,332	£35,545,659	18.7%	8.7%
Business Park	13	2,734	£3,484,955	1.8%	1.9%
City Centre	43	28,132	£36,212,812	19.1%	19.8%
Commercial	3	1,308	£4,337,443	2.3%	0.9%
Culture & Commerce	1	434	£1,910,120	1.0%	0.3%
Destination	3	2,351	£1,180,000	0.6%	1.7%
Food & Drink	1	40	£14,639	0.0%	0.0%
Industrial	13	2,811	£2,333,968	1.2%	2.0%
Industrial Park	3	378	£418,382	0.2%	0.3%
Industrial/Business Parks	1	300	£120,000	0.1%	0.2%
Leisure	2	389	£2,477,811	1.3%	0.3%
Mixed Area	21	7,203	£22,725,051	12.0%	5.1%
Property Owner	6	1,089	£11,012,659	5.8%	0.8%
Retail	1	418	£745,623	0.4%	0.3%

Retail & Leisure	2	1,001	£1,097,454	0.6%	0.7%
Tourism	7	3,314	£2,359,855	1.2%	2.3%
Town Centre	202	76,404	£54,860,016	28.9%	53.8%
Town Centre/Tourism	2	1,200	£631,383	0.3%	0.8%
Grand Total	**355**	**141,999**	**£189,810,605**	**100.0%**	**100.0%**

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

Countries and Regions	Numbers of BIDs	HEREDITAMENTS	LEVYINCOME	% total levy income	% total hereditaments
East Midlands	**11**	**6,062**	**£5,271,628**	**2.8%**	**4.27%**
East of England	**30**	**11,913**	**£9,689,764**	**5.1%**	**8.39%**
Greater London	**83**	**26,292**	**£74,368,940**	**39.2%**	**18.52%**
Ireland	**5**	**6,836**	**£5,390,155**	**2.8%**	**4.81%**
North East England	**7**	**2,897**	**£3,483,226**	**1.8%**	**2.04%**
North West England	**38**	**13,940**	**£22,232,921**	**11.7%**	**9.82%**
Northern Ireland	**8**	**3,252**	**£3,071,312**	**1.6%**	**2.29%**
Scotland	**36**	**11,655**	**£9,521,291**	**5.0%**	**8.21%**
South East England	**44**	**17,803**	**£16,168,097**	**8.5%**	**12.54%**
South West England	**32**	**15,876**	**£13,635,488**	**7.2%**	**11.18%**
Wales	**11**	**4,779**	**£4,135,968**	**2.2%**	**3.37%**
West Midlands	**33**	**13,397**	**£12,439,715**	**6.6%**	**9.43%**
Yorkshire and the Humber	**17**	**7,297**	**£10,402,100**	**5.5%**	**5.14%**
Grand Total	**355**	**141,999**	**£189,810,605**	**100.0%**	**100.00%**

Growth of BIDs

The total number of hereditaments across all BIDs in the survey this year is 141,999 [2025,138,543**;** 2024**,** 134,098**;** 2023, 132,962; 2022, 121,485], an increase of 3,456 from last year.

Figure 8 BID Growth 2010-2026

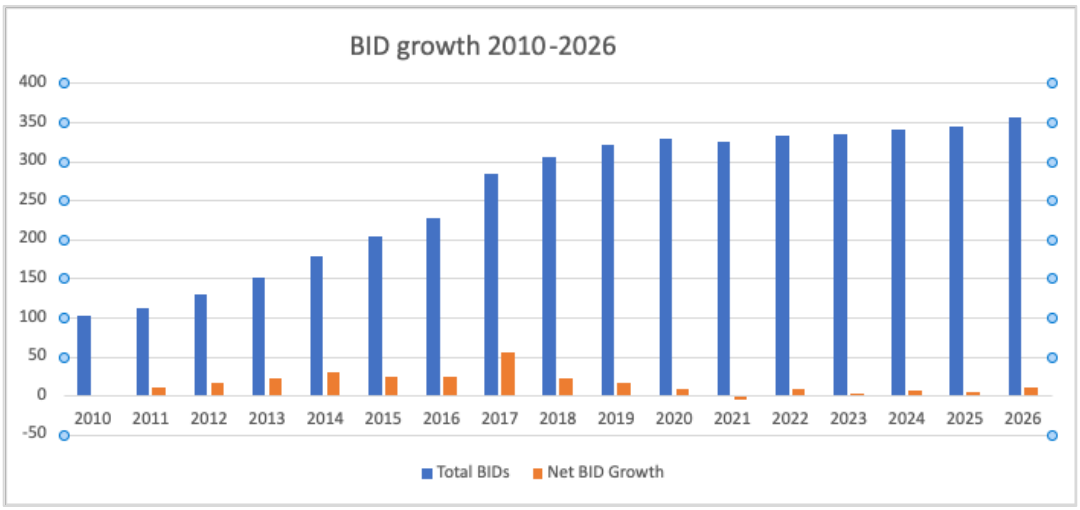
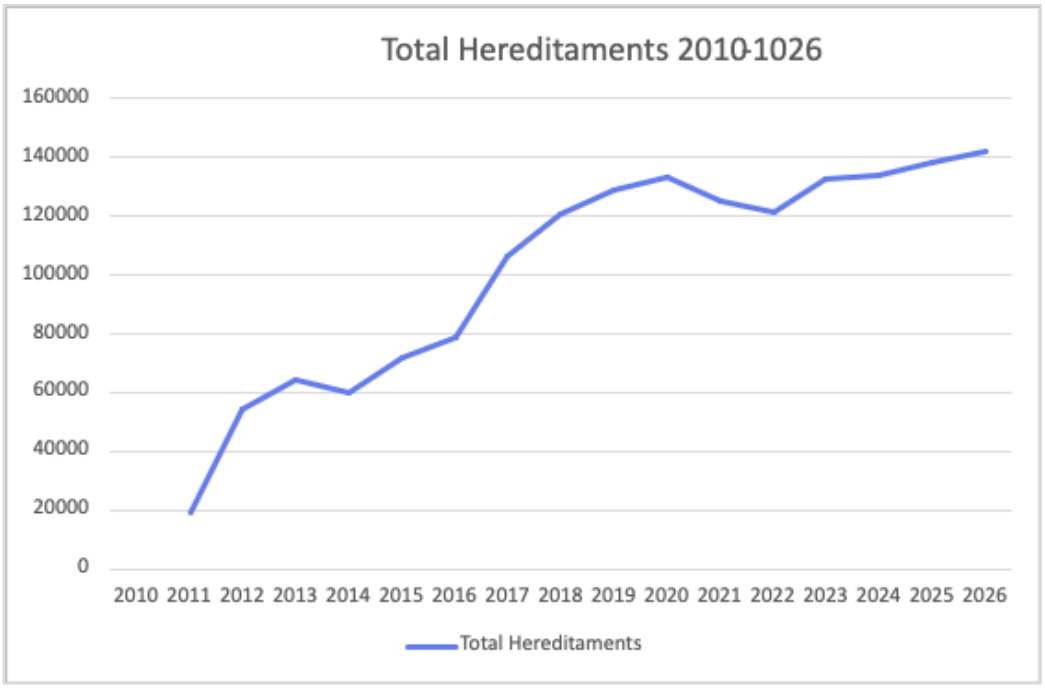


Figure 9 Annual growth of hereditaments over past 16 years



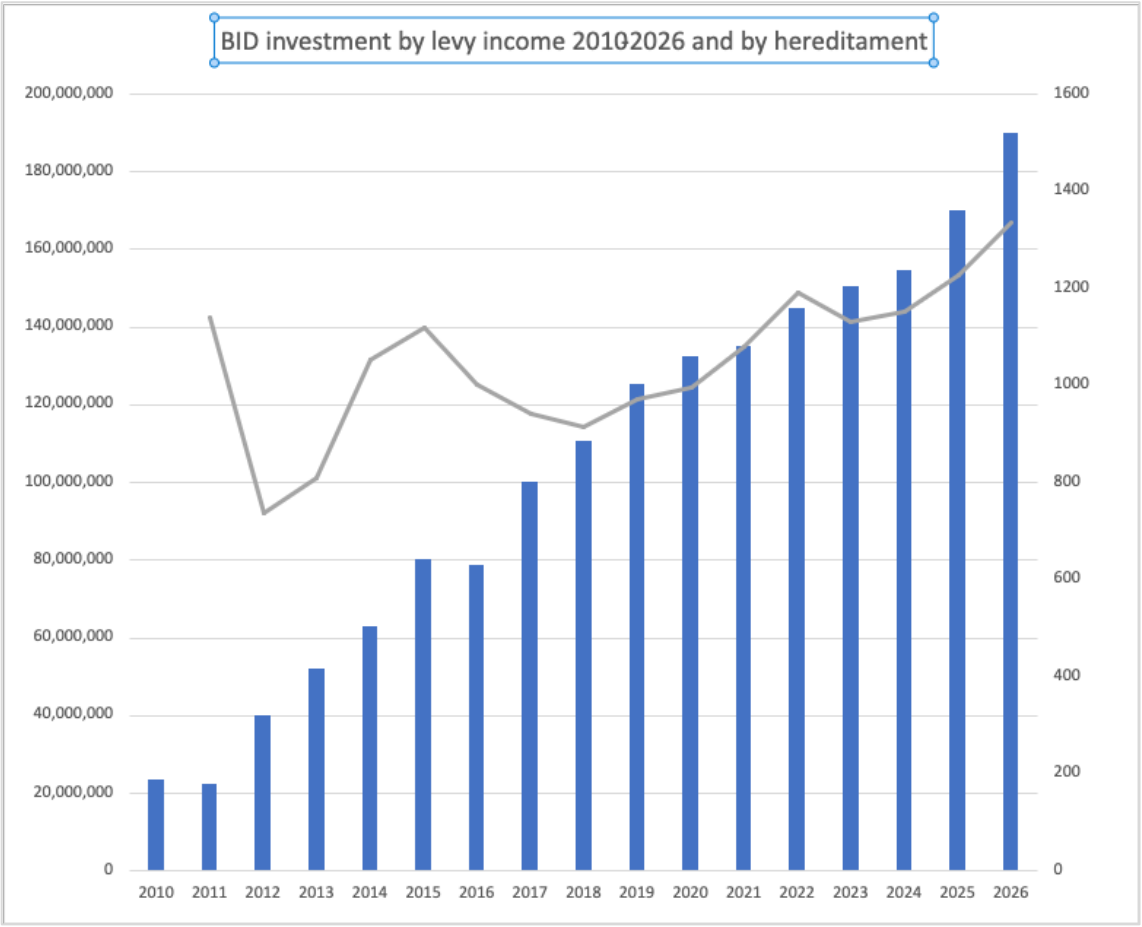
Economic impact of BIDs

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 19 BID Levy spending over time 2010-2026

Survey year	Number of BIDs	Growth in BIDs	Total Levy Investment	Total Hereditaments	Investment per hereditament
2010	102		23,483,888		
2011	112	10	22,085,567	19,353	£1,141
2012	129	17	39,883,454	54,110	£737
2013	150	21	51,847,486	64,150	£808
2014	179	29	63,000,000	59,771	£1,054
2015	203	24	80,124,969	71,703	£1,117
2016	227	24	78,659,124	78,549	£1,001
2017	283	56	99,971,741	106,262	£941
2018	305	22	110,575,380	120,735	£916
2019	321	16	125,205,608	128,785	£972
2020	329	8	132,493,286	133,163	£995
2021	324	-5	134,979,983	125,023	£1,080
2022	332	8	144,735,669	121,485	£1,191
2023	335	3	150,316,106	132,962	£1,131
2024	341	6	154,620,538	134,098	£1,153
2025	345	4	169,928,983	138,543	£1,227
2026	355	10	189,810,605	141,999	£1,337

Figure 10 Total BID investment from levy income 2010-2026 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 current population of 355 BIDs, the total BID levy income raised and spent across the British Isles is £189,810,605 [2025, £169,928,983; 2024, £154,620,538; 2023, £150,316,106] an increase of 11.7% [£19,881,622] over last year. Some of this increase is due to RV changes and some is the growth in BID size and number.

The 11.7% rise in levy income is substantially faster than the 2.9% increase in BID numbers and the 2.5% increase in hereditaments, indicating that the sector's financial expansion is being driven mainly by higher rateable values, larger schemes, higher levy rates or inflation-linked uplifts rather than by numerical growth alone.

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 £6,100,000 per annum.

Apart from the 2020 Covid year[37], 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 20: Measures of levy income and expenditure by term

Row Labels	Count	Total LEVY INCOME	Max INCOME	Min LEVY INCOME
1ST TERM	55	£36,428,526	£4,092,320	£34,390
2ND TERM	94	£31,066,995	£1,308,960	£14,639
3RD TERM	117	£62,167,575	£6,100,000	£37,500
4TH TERM	63	£30,438,782	£3,387,025	£55,000
5TH TERM	24	£19,008,727	£2,327,017	£151,238
6TH TERM	1	£6,100,000	£6,100,000	£6,100,000
Alteration Ballot	1	£4,600,000	£4,600,000	£4,600,000
Grand Total	**355**	**£189,810,605**	**£6,100,000**	**£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 £301,000 [2025, £292,485; 2024, £295,500; 2023, £294,278; 2022, £285,691] or

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

less; and 75% of all BIDs having a levy income of £577,000 [2025, £542,387; 2024, £529,554; 2023, £522,034; 2022, £486,556] or less.

Table 21: Measures of BID annual levy spend £ in 355 active BIDs.

Lowest	**£14,639**
Lower Quartile	£161,211
Median	£301,000
Upper Quartile	£577,000
Highest	£6,100,000

There are now 43 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 now £6,100,000 [2025, £4,600,000; 2024, £4,100,000]

Average 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 141,999 [2025, 134,098; 2023, 132,962; 2022, 121,485] hereditaments raising and spending £189,810,605 [2025, £154,620,538; 2023, £150,316,106; 2022, £144,735,669], the average income and spend is £1,337 [2025, £1,227; 2024, £1,153; 2023, £1,131; 2022, £1,191] per hereditament.

Table 22 Mean levy per hereditament over time

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
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2024	341	6	154,620,538	134,098	£1,153
2025	345	4	169,928,983	138,543	£1,227
2026	355	10	189,810,605	141,999	£1,337

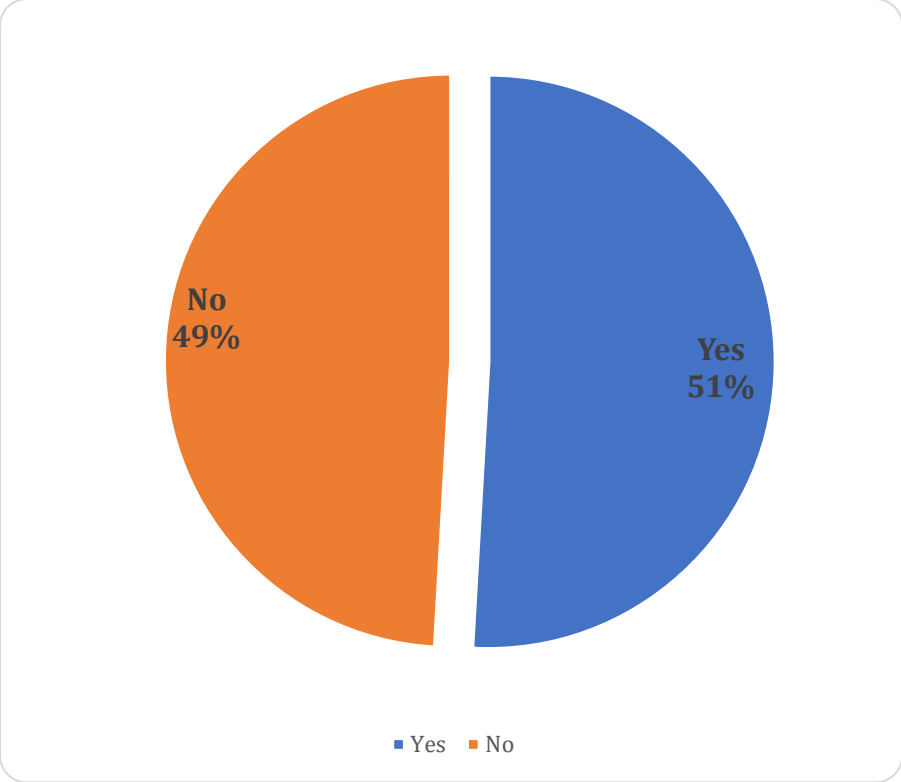
Additional income

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 – 51% [2025, 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

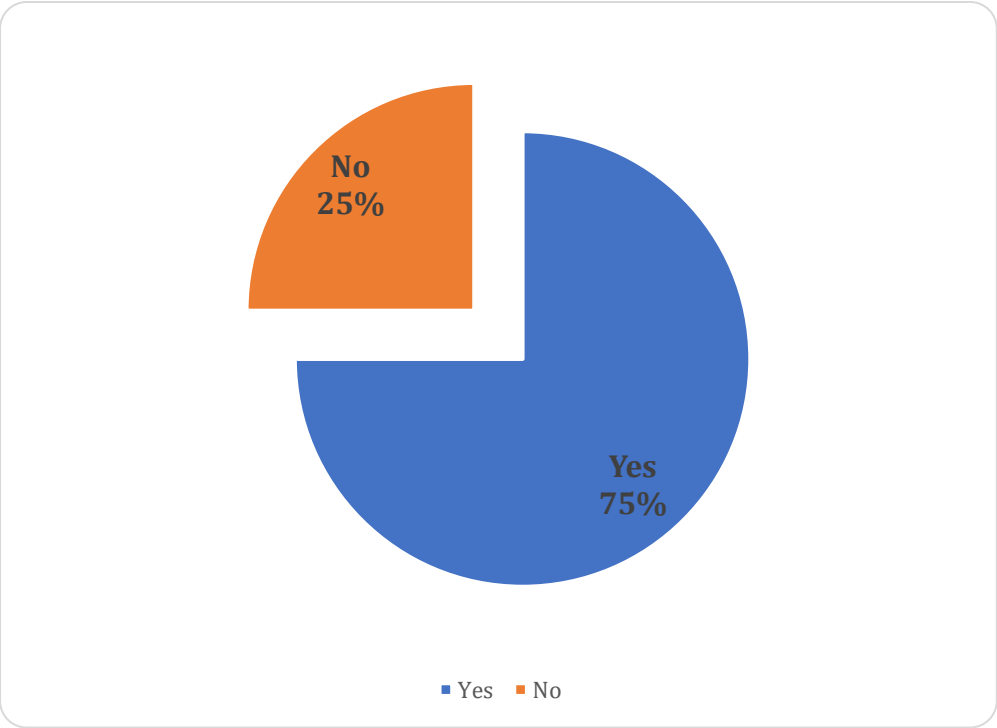
Figure 11 Voluntary financial contributions to BIDs 2026



External non-levy income

Most BIDs 75% [2025, 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 2026



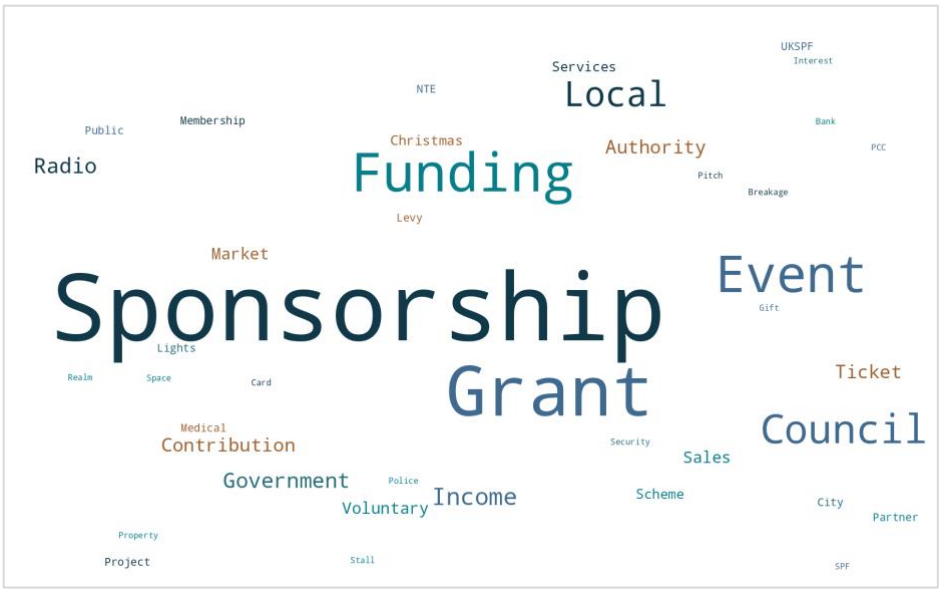
The data from the survey this year shows an increase in amounts raised with a median figure for additional external income in a BID of £83,000 [2025, £58,000; 2024, £44,230; 2023, £46,061; 2022, £60,000], and at a total of £42,845,910 [2025, £22,597,080] a 96-percentage point increase on last year's £21,758,676

Table 23: Measures of additional income for BIDs

Measures	Extra income
Lowest	£3,000
Bottom Quartile	£38,125
Median	£83,000
Upper Quartile	£245,113
Highest	£11,600,000
Total	£42,845,910

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

Figure 13 Externally funded BID projects



Total BID spending 2026

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 24: Measure of Total BID funding 2026

Measure	Levy Income	External income	Total spending
Lowest	£14,639	£3,000	£17,639
Lower Quartile	£161,211	£38,125	£199,336
Median	£301,000	£83,000	£384,000
Upper Quartile	£577,000	£245,113	£822,113
Highest	£6,100,000	£11,600,000	£17,700,000
Total	£189,810,605	£42,845,910	£232,656,515

Summating this totality of BID levy funding, and additional funding, gives a figure of £232,656,515 [2025, £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.

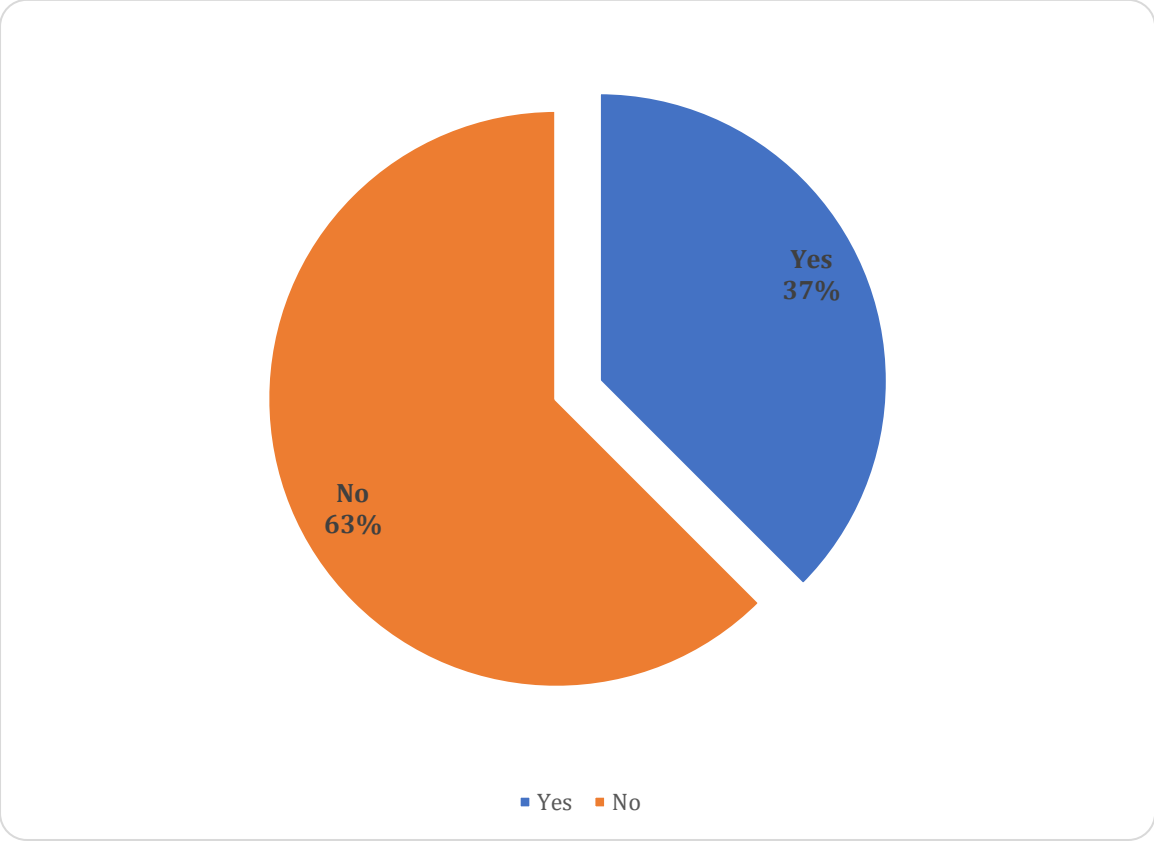
In the survey, respondents, representing 35.4% of BIDs, reported £42m of external income. Assuming non-respondents are broadly comparable, this implies a sector-wide external income total of approximately £120m. This is an indicative estimate, subject to non-response bias and the skewed distribution of income across BIDs.

It suggests that the total BID levy spend, along with the spending raised from all external sources across the British Isles amounts to £353,373,166 per annum

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 14 % of BIDs which leveraged some Inward investment 2026



Some 37% of the BID industry [2025, 43.8%; 2024, 40%; 2023, 35%; 2022, 48%; 2021, 51.9%] 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 Pride in Place, Town Fund and levelling up applications, but the amounts of money and the time scales are

not easy to track. Currently, from the Town Funding alone some £3.6 billion is being spent over a five-year period, affecting some 50% BIDs, and Pride in Place funding, which has replaced it, is being similarly used.

Total BID funding and investment 2018-2026

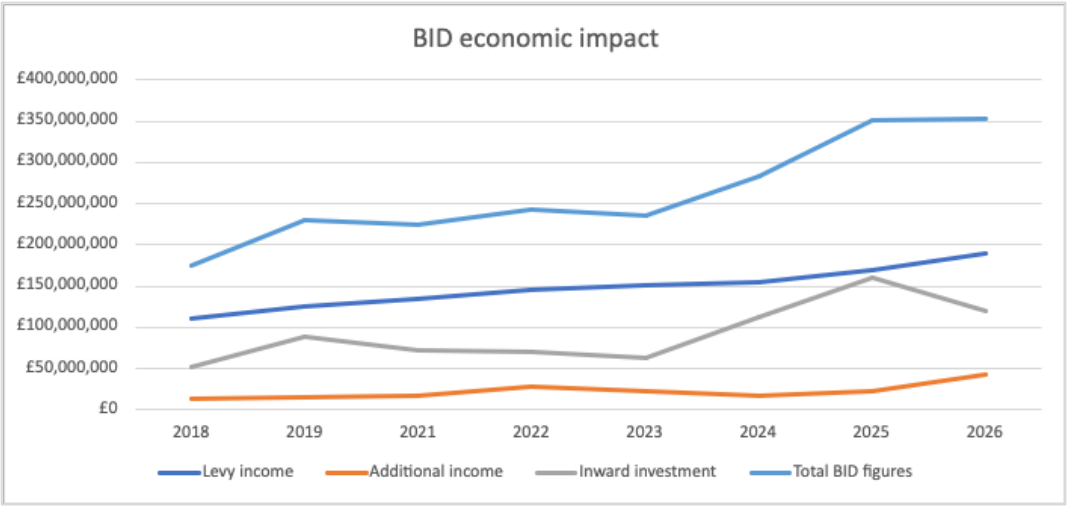
Whilst comparisons over time may not always be useful, because of variations in definitions and individual BIDs data definition, the eight-year data for all BID income and leveraged investment expenditure is a positive story, with a current estimated global projection of £353,373,166, showing growth in levy income, additional entrepreneurial income and increased leveraged inward investment. This inward investment data has now been smoothed over a five-year period, as some 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 25: Estimated total BID spending and investment 2018-2026

Amounts in £ millions								
	2018	**2019**	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**	**2026**
Levy income	110.6	125.2	135.0	144.7	150.3	154.6	169.9	189.8
Additional income	12.6	14.5	17.7	27.1	21.8	16.5	22.6	42.8
Inward investment	51.9	89.5	72.0	70.8	63.2	112.7	159.4	120.7
Total BID figures	175.1	229.2	224.7	242.6	235.3	283.9	351.9	353.4

Figure 15 BID economic impact 2018-2026



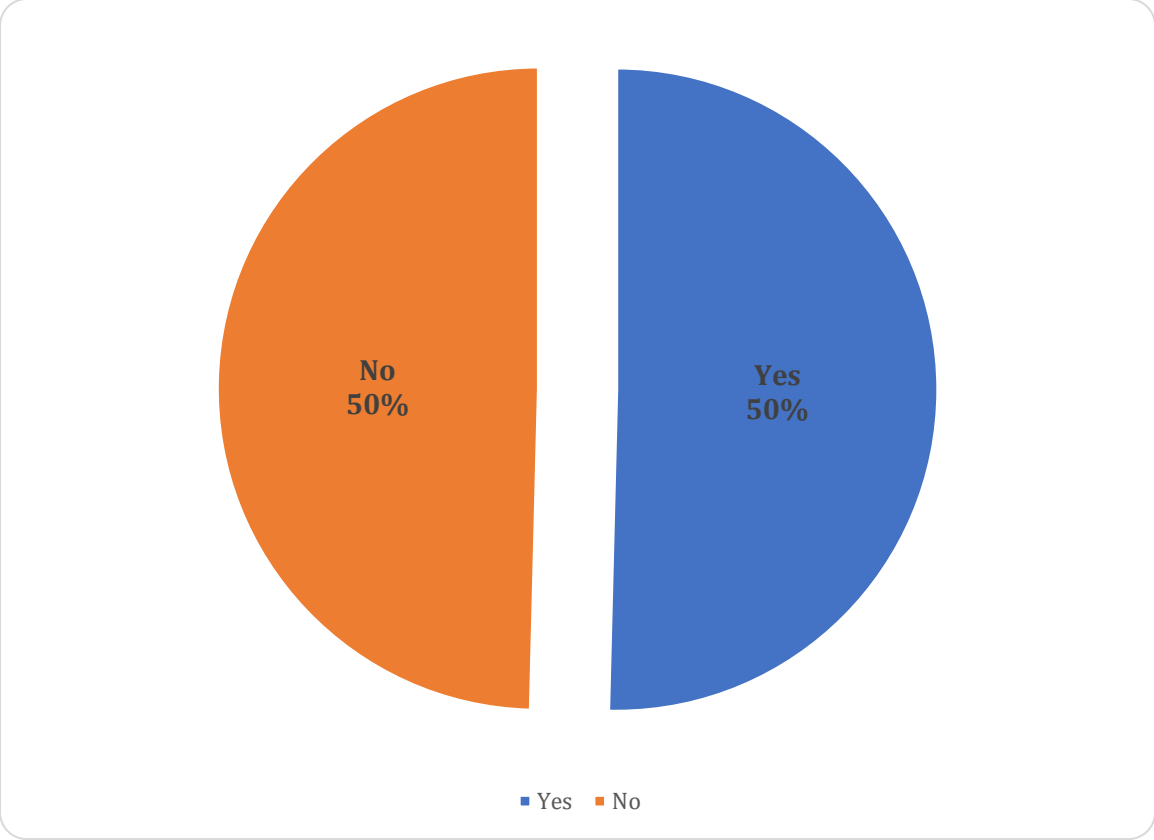
Inflation, thresholds, and caps

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. This year 50% [2025, 41.8%; 2024, 36%; 2023 24%] are applying an annual inflation factor, an increase of 8.2 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 26: Use of an annual inflation factor 2026



An inflation rate of 3% remains the median for those 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 27: Annual % inflation rate used.

Inflation Measure	% of BIDs using an inflation factor
RPI	15.25%
CPI	23.73%
other	46.09%

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.

93% of BIDs make use of an exemption threshold, with a Median figure of £10,000

Figure 16 Use of Exemption Thresholds

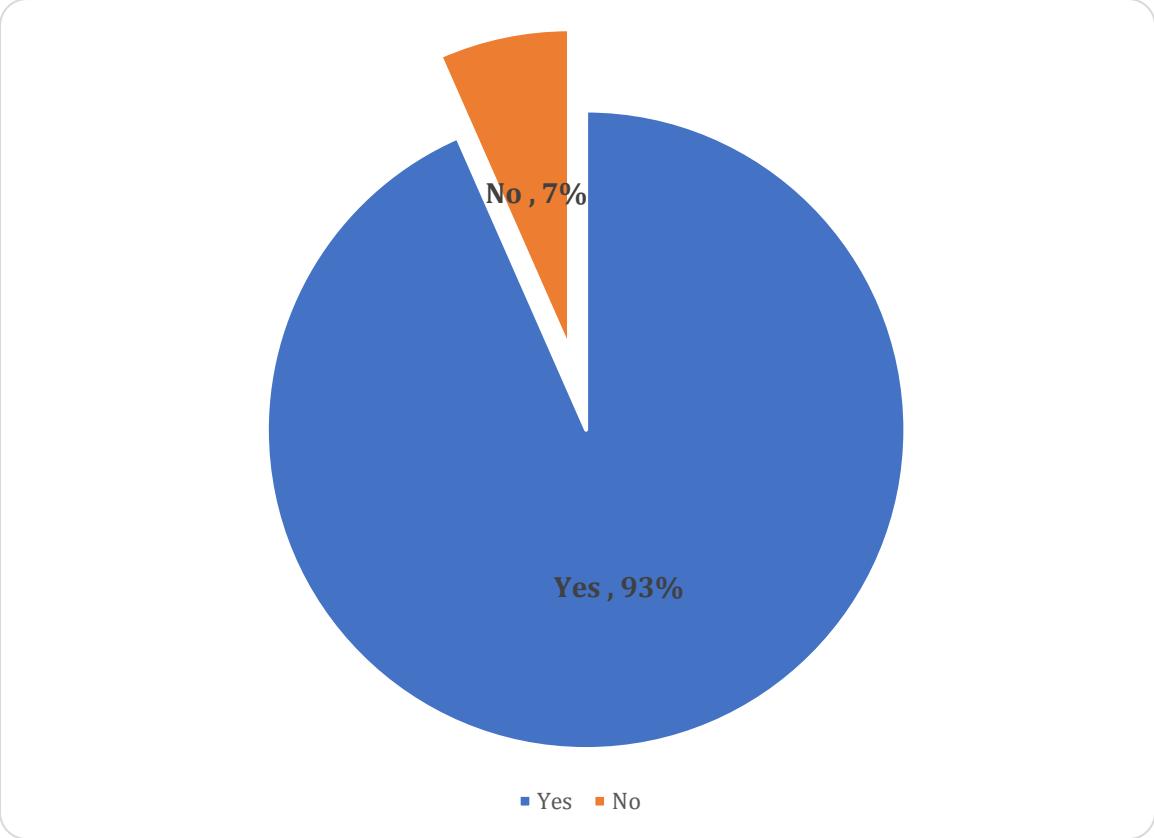


Table 28: Thresholds levels used by BIDs in 2026

Threshold measures	Amount in pounds
Bottom Quartile	£5,750
Median	£10,000
Upper Quartile	£15,000
Highest	£180,000

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.

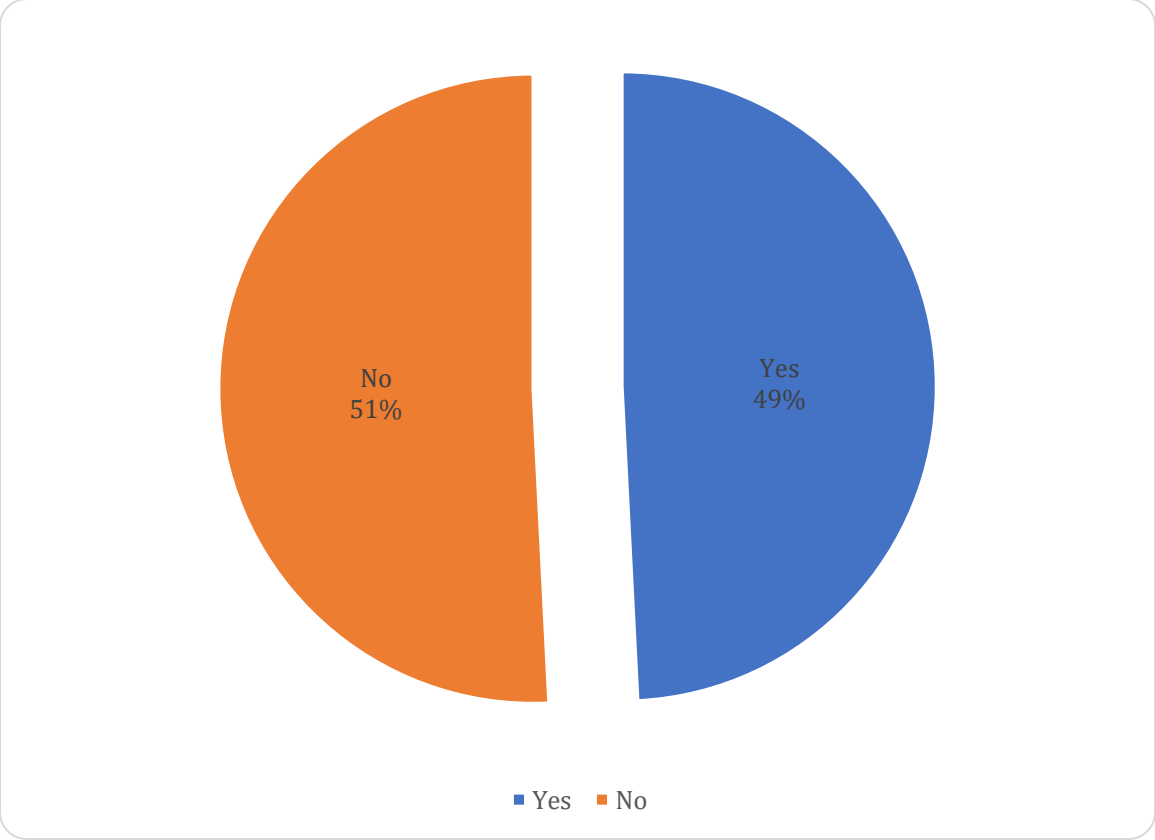
This is an area of importance for many BIDs as they come to ballot. Clearly, it is tactically valuable to keep the BID population small and with high levels of levy income so that the process of campaigning is simple and cost effective and turnout is high. At the same time, BIDs are about a business 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 [49%] 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 49% do so [2025, 43% ;2023, 44%; 2022, 50%; 2021, 42%.] The proportion now using them has gone up 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 29: The level of the caps used by BIDs

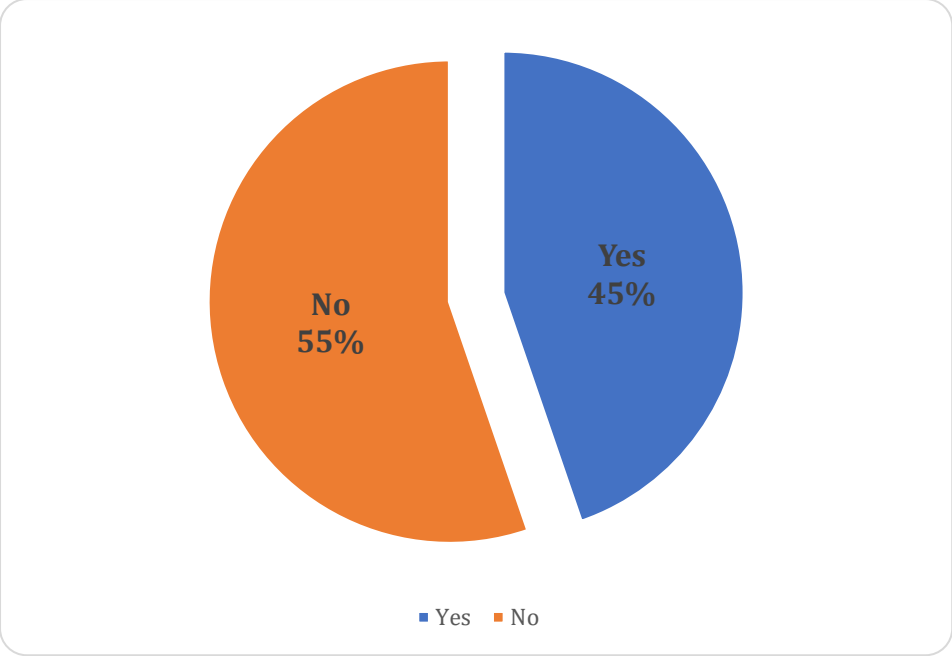
Lowest	£0
Bottom Quartile	£5,000
Median	£15,000
Upper Quartile	£20,000
Highest	£100,000

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

BID levy discounts

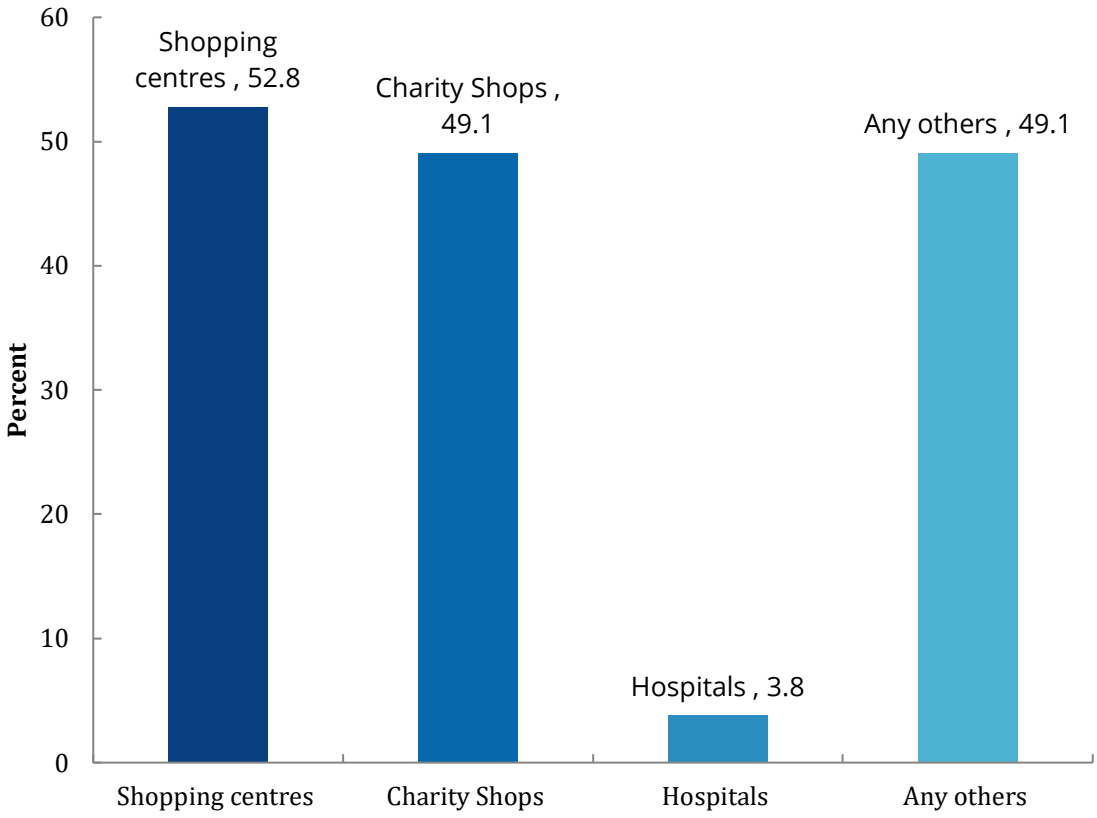
Most BIDs [45%] opt to give charities and other key players a discount on their levy, although this is becoming less prevalent over time, particularly in relation to discounts on commercially trading charity shops.

Figure 18: Levy discounts



From the survey, 45% [2025, 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 49.1% and 58% respectively.

Figure 19: Levy discounts by % and type of business



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 [38] 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. For many local authorities, this is a keyway that they can support their local business community and some 17% of the survey do so

[38] 2004 Regs Schedule 3 2.1

Table 30: Levy collection costs

Measure	Levy collection costs
Bottom Quartile	£2,543
Median	£8,750
Upper Quartile	£16,667
Highest	£104,000

From the responses, 17% [2025,10%; 2024, 12%] 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 £8,750.

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 31 Levy collection rates 2026 – 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 98% [2025, 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

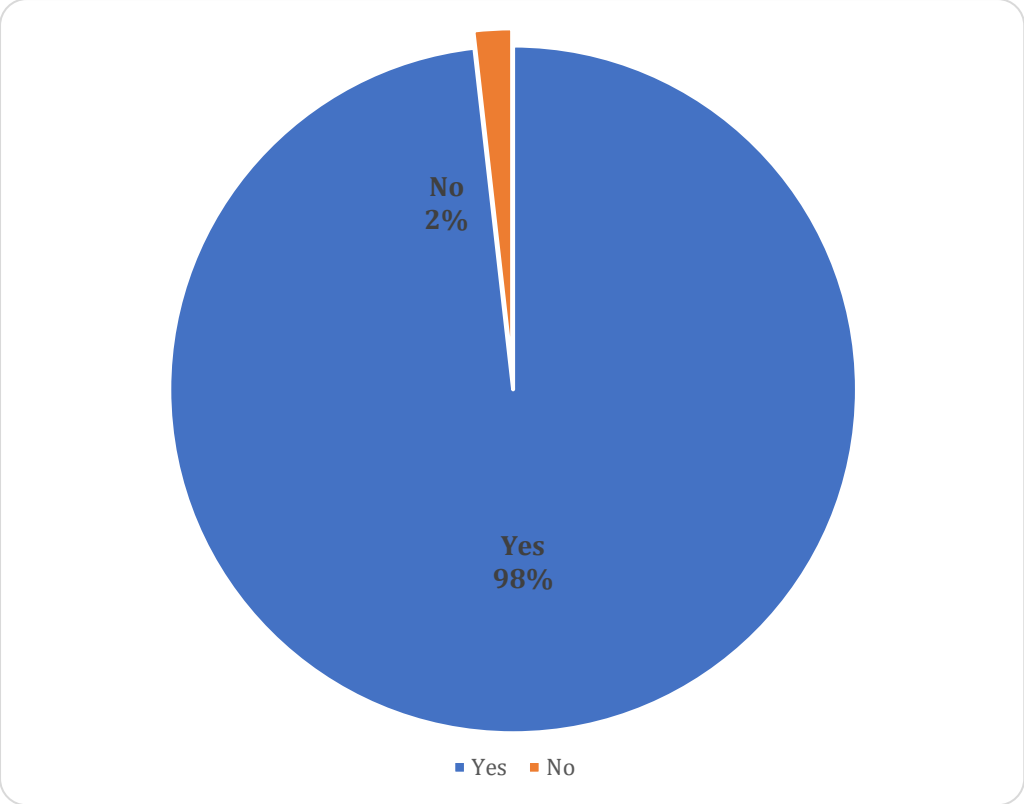
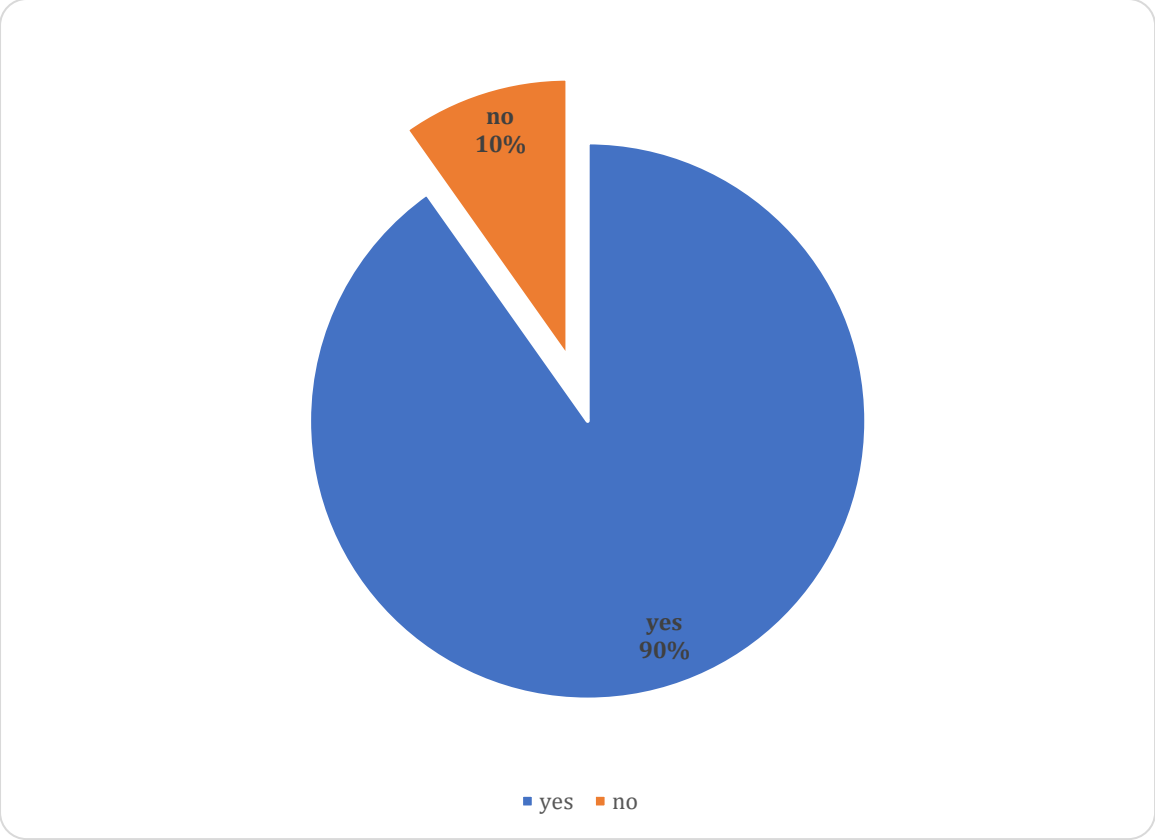


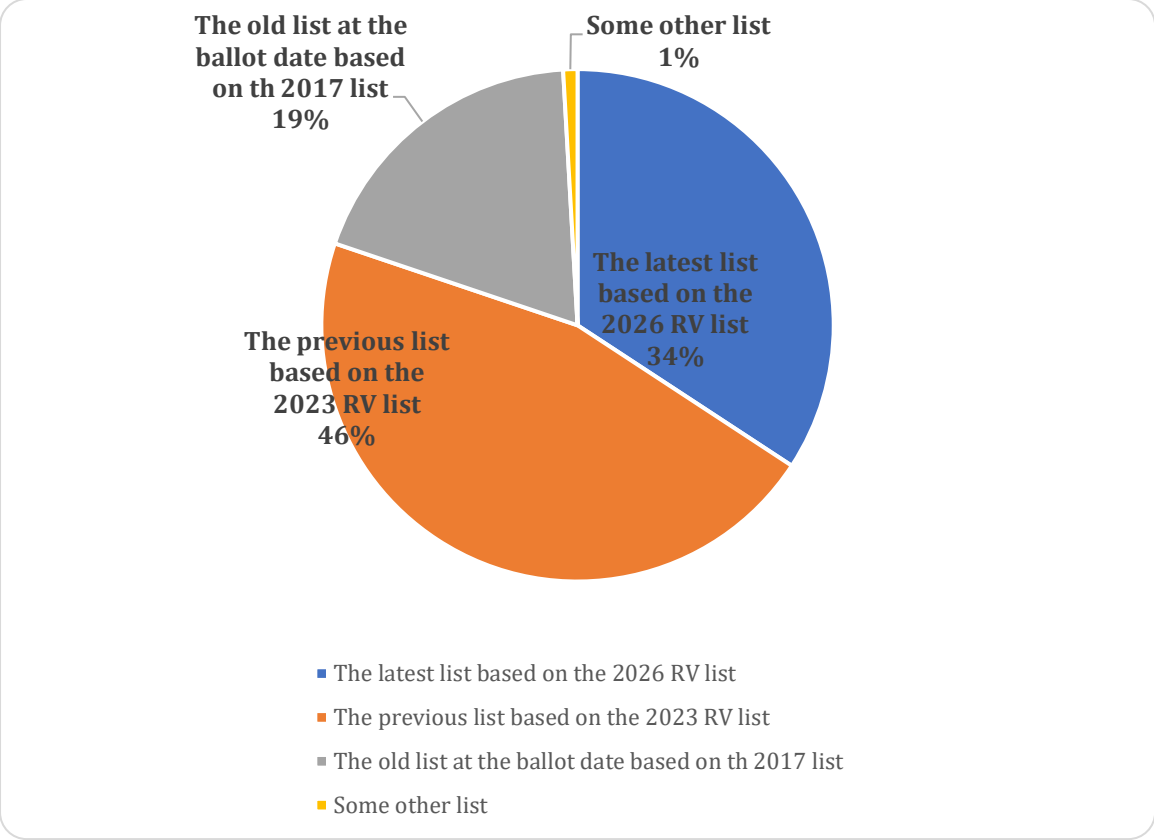
Figure 21 Information on levy payers



Business rates list

Most BIDs 46% [2025, 69%] use the old 2023 non-domestic Ratings list for their levy collection, with 34% 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. It seems clear that as BIDs come up to ballot, they slowly move onto the latest list available at the time, either freezing it on the date of their ballot, or changing it each year in line with the local authority finance team's advice.

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[39]. The last ratings change [40] clearly affected many BIDs' levy income as ballots move BIDs onto the latest list. The plan to review business rates more regularly[41] was one of the British BIDs requests in our submission to the Treasury on business rates back in[42] 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

[39] https://valuationoffice.blog.gov.uk/2025/09/29/revaluation-2026-everything-you-need-to-know/

[40] 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

[41] https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/997352/Consultation_More_Frequent_Revaluations.pdf

[42] https://britishbids.info/publications/the-impact-of-business-rates-on-business-inquiry

rates in the short term despite the Transforming Business Rates[43] interim report. The last King's speech did not specifically mention business rates[44], 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.

[43] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/transforming-business-rates-interim-report
[44] https://www.geraldeve.com/insights/rating-update-kings-speech-2024/

From the data it is possible to extrapolate total numbers, and this suggests that in 2026 across the five countries, BIDs employed some 1,368 full-time equivalent staff [2025, 981.1;2024, 1,104; 2023, 944; 2022, 993.58; 2021,1,040].

Whilst the median staffing level for a BID is now 2.5, the range is wide, with a high of 21 staff. A number of BIDs are managed by Board members, so have no staffing numbers, and 11% are managed by part-time staff only.

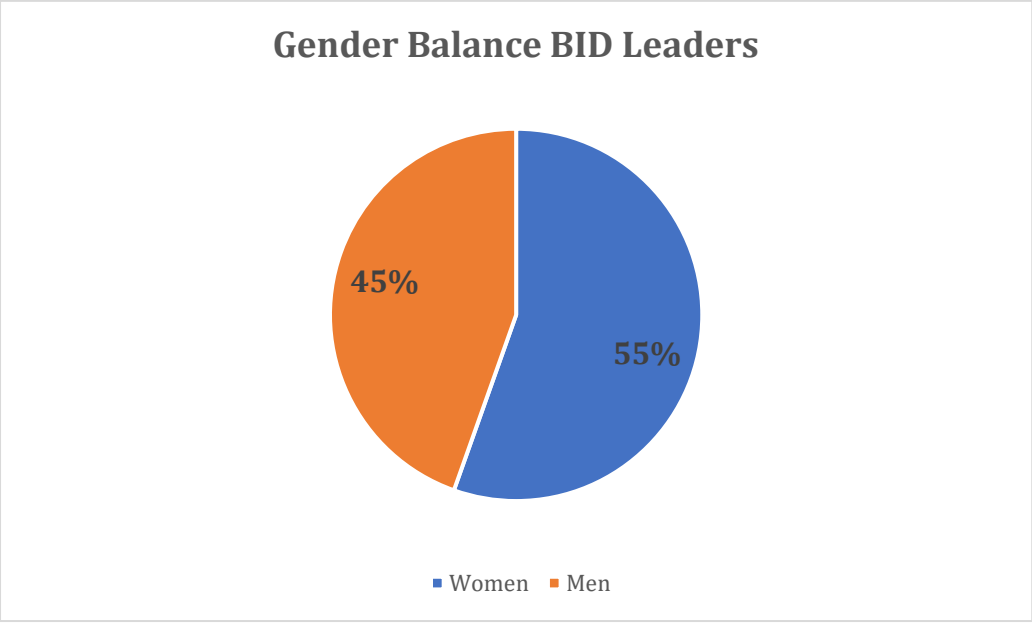
Table 32: Staffing levels in BIDs

Lowest	**0.0**
Bottom Quartile	1.0
Median	2.5
Upper Quartile	5.0
Highest	21.0
Total	1,368.2

Gender balance in BID managers

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

Figure 23 Gender balance in BID leaders 2026



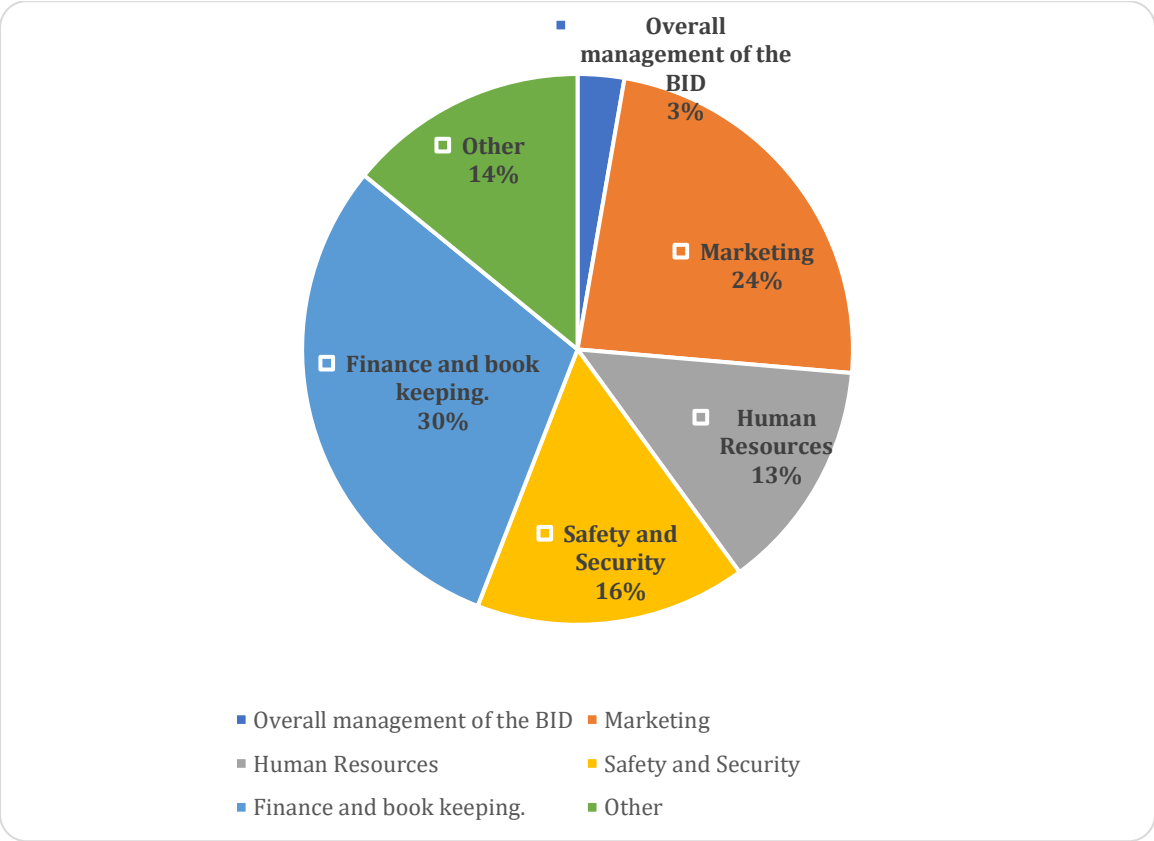
The gender balance amongst BID chief executives and managers, based on simple forename analysis, has moved, from almost exactly 50:50 male: female in

2019, to 55:45 female: male in 2025 and 2026. 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 30% of BIDs; with marketing also important at 24%. 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 over 40% have made use of

consultants to either set up or help manage BIDs. 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, accountability and transparency rightly come to the fore, and governance matters are key parts of the British BID Industry Guidelines [45].

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 3,130 [2025, 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 rules of good corporate governance.

Table 33: BID Boards by size and distribution

BID Boards by size and distribution	Numbers
Lowest	2
Bottom Quartile	7
Median	9
Upper Quartile	13
Highest	22
Total	3,130

From the data there is a range of BID Board size and composition, although most range from 7-13, with the largest at 25 and a median size of 9.

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

Property owners

60% of BIDs reported having some form of property ownership involved in their Boards, with a median number of 1 and a maximum of 8; and there are 524 [2025,548; 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.

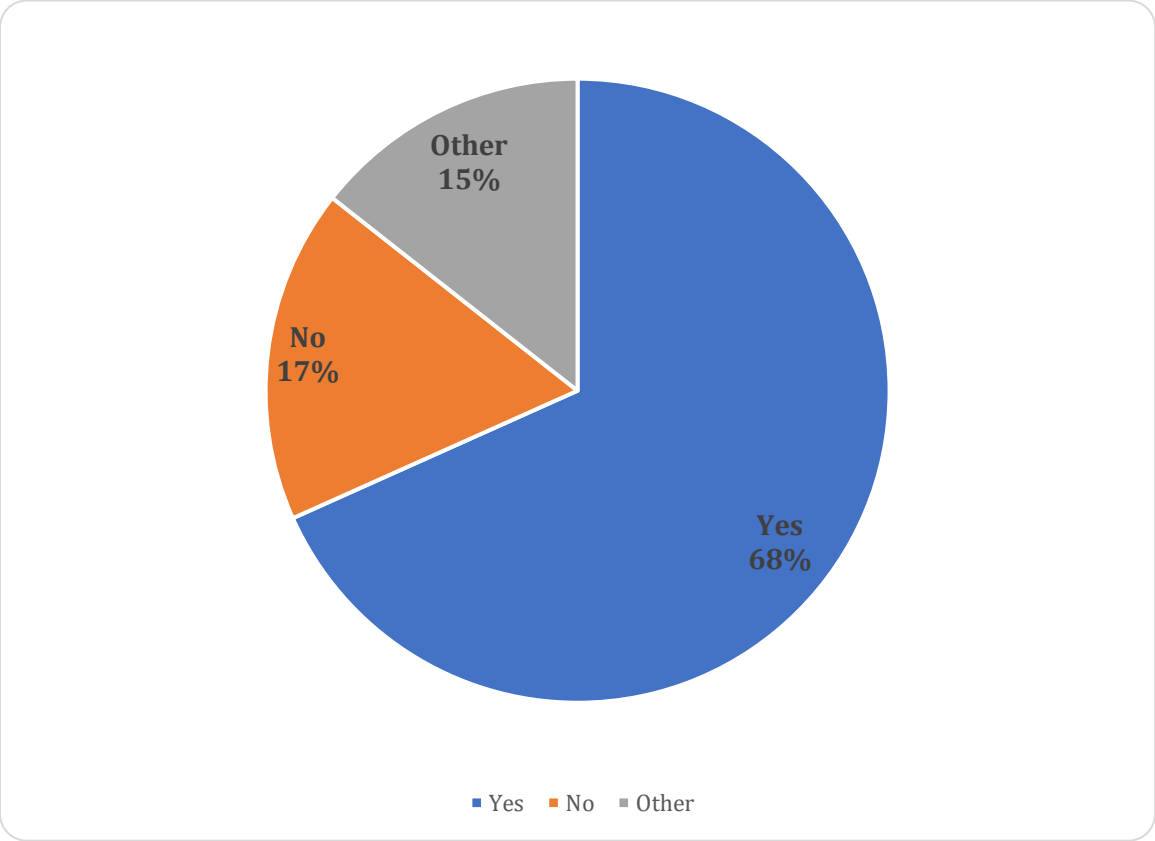
Table 34: Property owners on Boards

Property owners on Boards	Numbers
Lowest	0
Bottom Quartile	0
Median	1
Upper Quartile	3
Highest	8
Total	524

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.

The government has committed to widening the property owner BID regulations to allow them to grow in number across England. This may well lead to an increase in the number of property owner BIDs across England and many BIDs were keen to engage with property owners and landlords both locally and nationally.

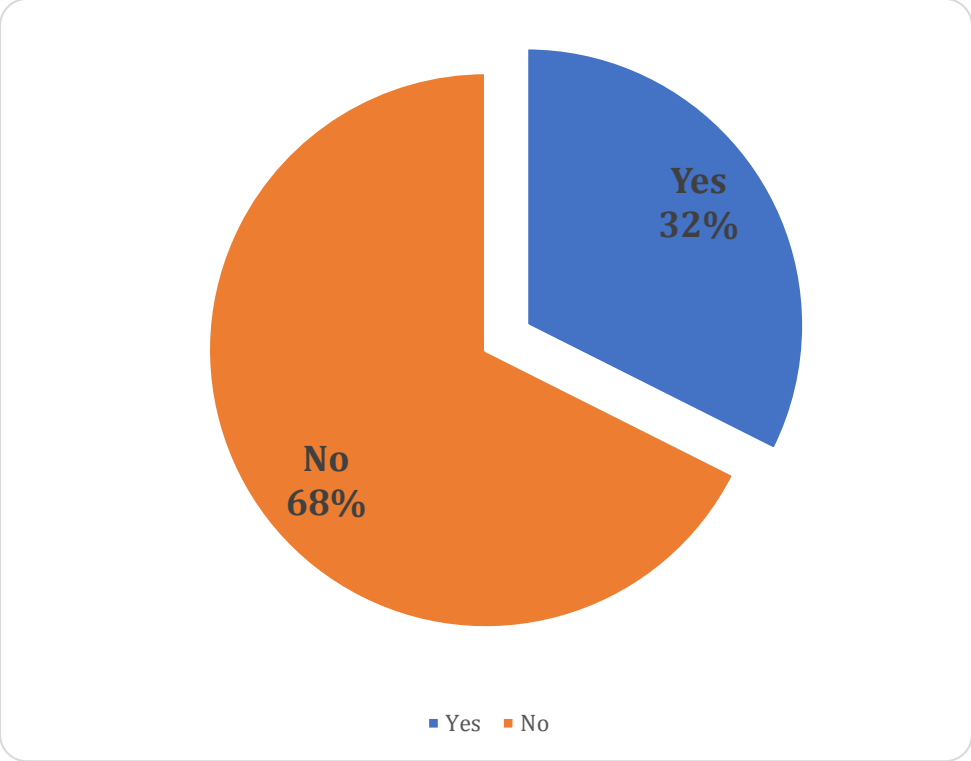
Figure 25 Would you like to engage more with Property Owners locally or nationally



Local community involvement in BID Boards

We continue to be interested in local community involvement in BID Boards, it seems to be an interest of government. The data suggests that 36% of BID Boards have local community representation, such as Civic Trust 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.

Figure 26 Local community involvement in 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 71% of BIDs have Local Authority representation, and there are 248 Local Authority Board members across the industry. The median membership number is 1 Local Authority representative.

Table 35: Local Authority Board members

Local Authority Board members	
Lowest	0
Bottom Quartile	0
Median	1
Upper Quartile	1
Highest	4
% of BIDs	71%

Observers on BID Boards

The balance between directors and observers also varies across BIDs, with most having 9 Directors and 1 Observer, whilst some have up to 20 members on their Board, and up to 6 observers.

Table 36: Observers on BID Boards

Observers on BID Boards	
Lowest	0
Bottom Quartile	0
Median	1
Upper Quartile	2
Highest	6
Total	386
%	50.00%

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 10 and there are 1,217 women on BID boards across the British Isles out of 3,130 directors.

Table 37: Numbers of women on BID Boards

Gender balance on BID Boards	
Lowest	0
Bottom Quartile	2
Median	4
Upper Quartile	5
Highest	10
Total Women on Boards	1,217

Diversity balance of Boards

On the matter of ethnic diversity, the responses identified 228 [2025,270; 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 38: Black, Asian and minority ethnic members of Boards

Black, Asian and minority ethnic members of Boards	
Lowest	0
Bottom Quartile	0
Median	0
Upper Quartile	1
Highest	6
Total	228

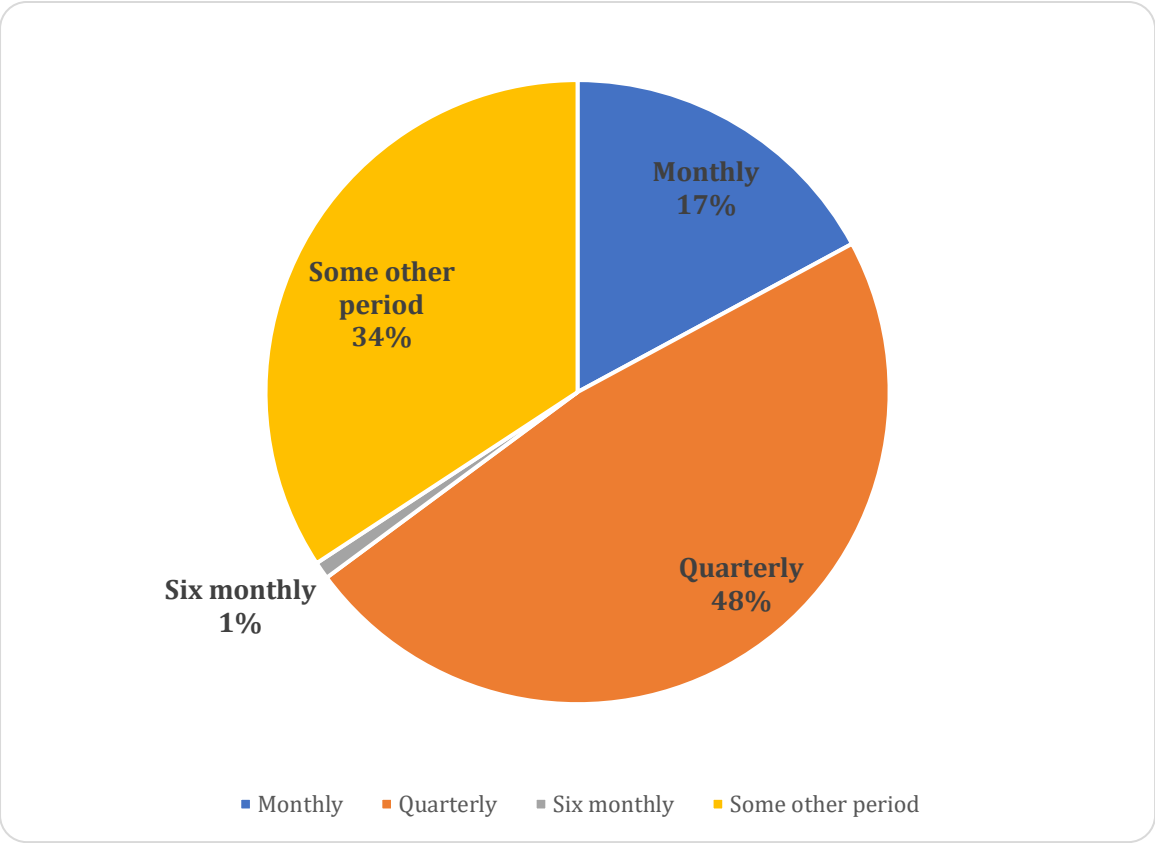
Shared Boards

There are some BIDs with shared or overarching Boards. It may be the local DMO, a Chamber of Commerce that has gestated a number of BIDs in their area, a commercial consultant that has set up a number of BIDs, 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. Feedback from a number of local authorities suggests that they are keen to see this happen more often, and as Local government reorganisation proceeds be increasing pressure for this to happen.

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 - 48% - of BIDs have Quarterly Board meetings

Figure 27: Board meeting timings

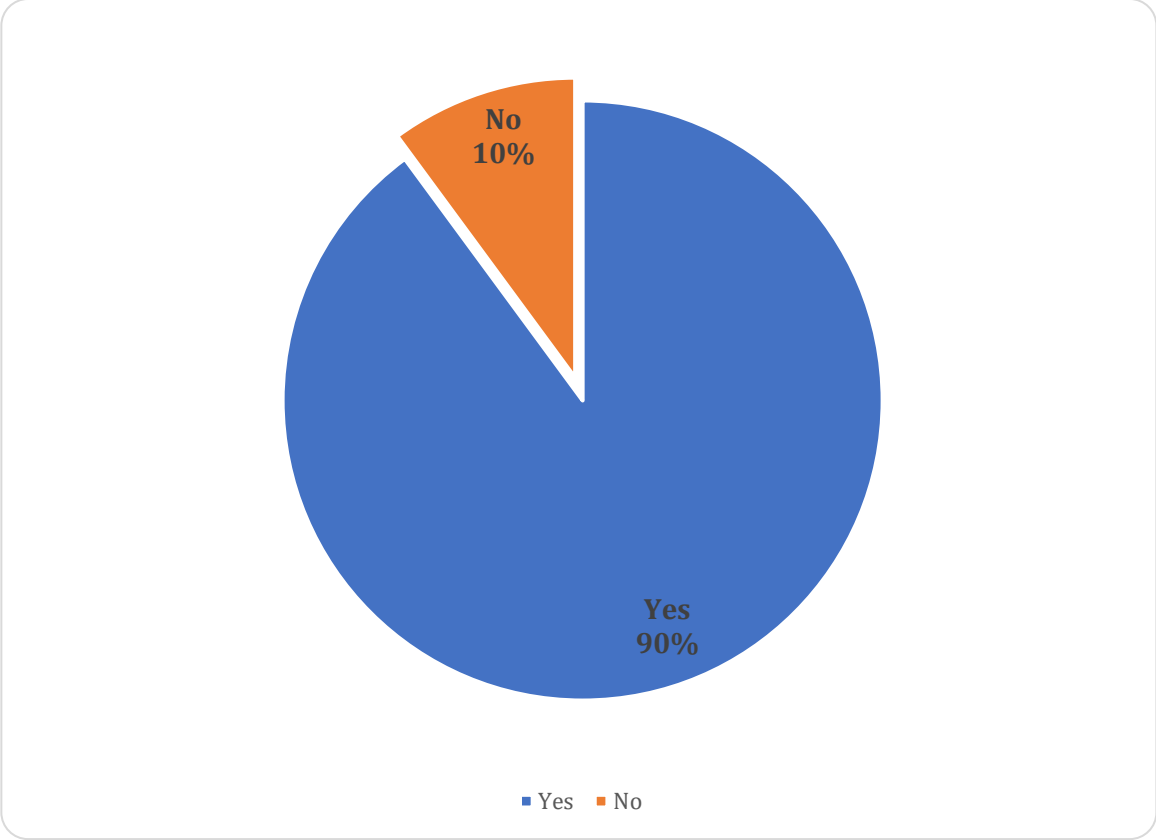


Annual accounts

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 [46] 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, 90% [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.

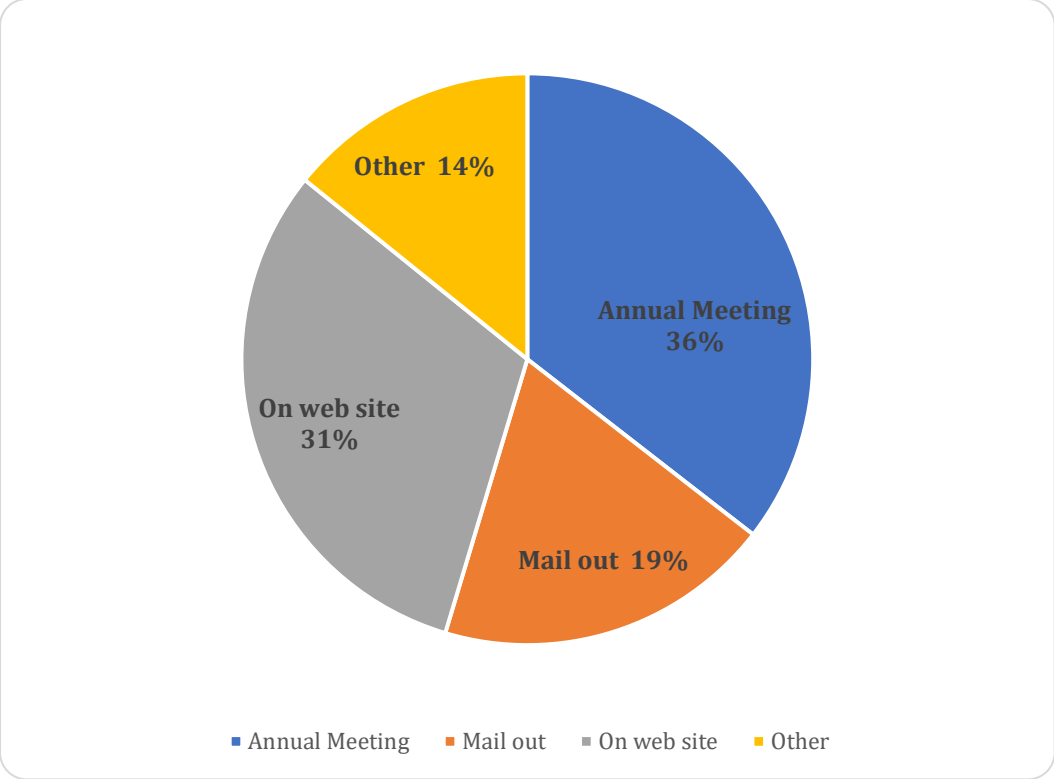
[46] Business Improvement District (England) Regulations 2004 Schedule 4 Regulation 15 3 (2) (a)-(d)

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.

Figure 29: Dissemination of accounts



BID policy matters

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

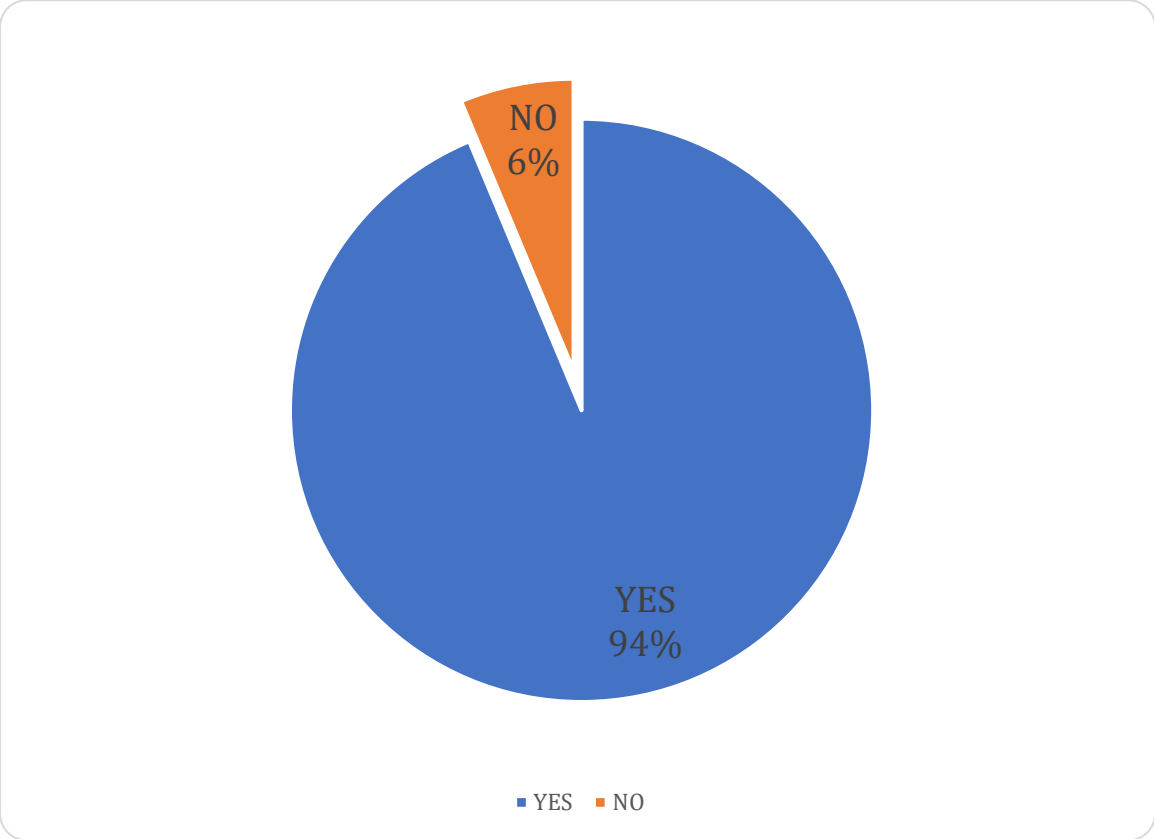
- Operating agreements,
- Baseline statements,
- Community involvement,
- Economic Social and governance issues [ESG],
- Improving the BID model
- DMOs and LVEPs
- Professional services levy payers,
- Permitted development rights,
- Business Crime Reduction Partnerships
- Government funding for the high street
- Overnight visitor levies

Local Authority Policy issues

Operating agreements

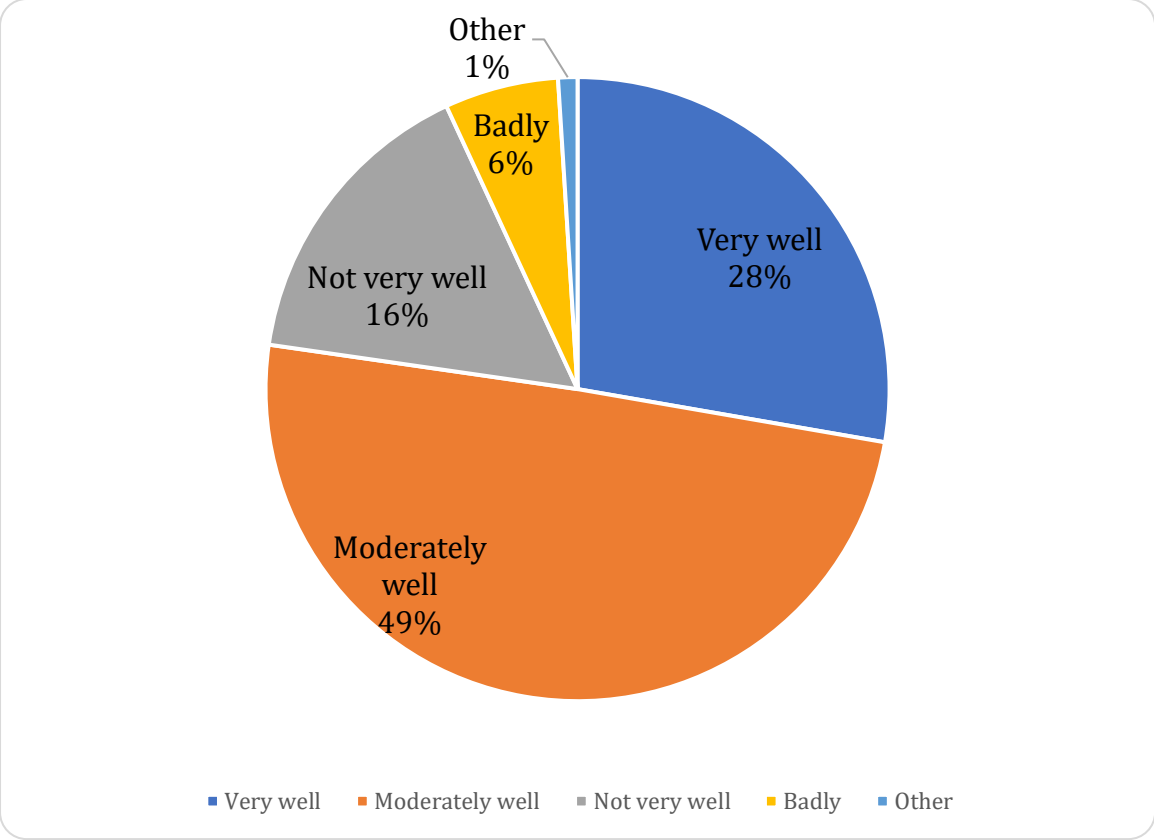
Each BID needs an operating agreement with its local authority; 94% of BIDs have an operating agreement with its local authority, but some still don't have them.

Figure 30: BIDs and operating agreements



Some 77% [2025,73%; 2024, 76%] of BIDs feel that their agreements work well or moderately well; but some 32% [2025,17%] 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.

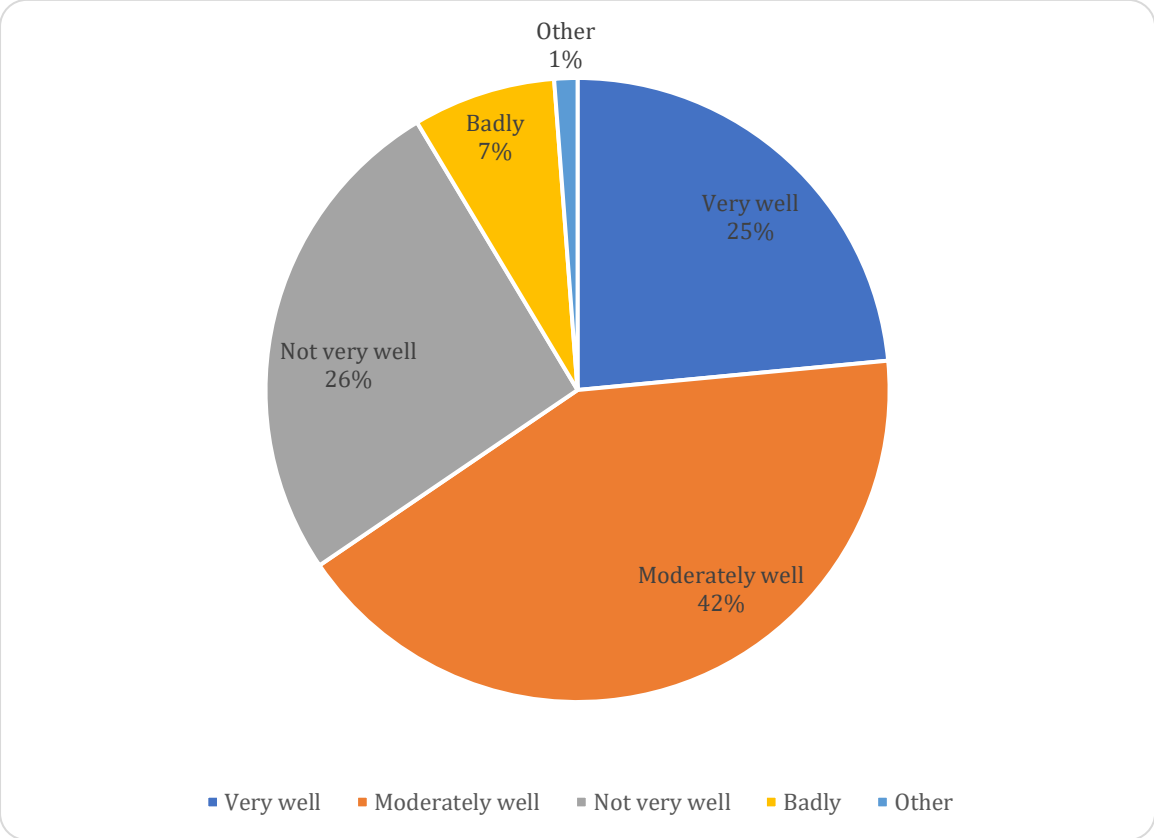
Although these are not mandated by the regulations, these baseline statements are useful elements in the BID proposal process, and *a statement of the existing baseline services (if any) provided by the relevant billing authority or other public authority* is required under the regulations[47]. Although 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, there was an increasing sense of 'slippage' with 33% [2024, 22%; 2023, 20%] of BIDs feeling that baseline statements were being

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

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



Community matters

The government has made clear [48] 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.*

[48] https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/business-in-the-community-speech-2-june-2026

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.

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[49]. 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[50] and the United Nations global compact[51], it is clear that many national levy payers are keen that BIDs engage with these issues[52].

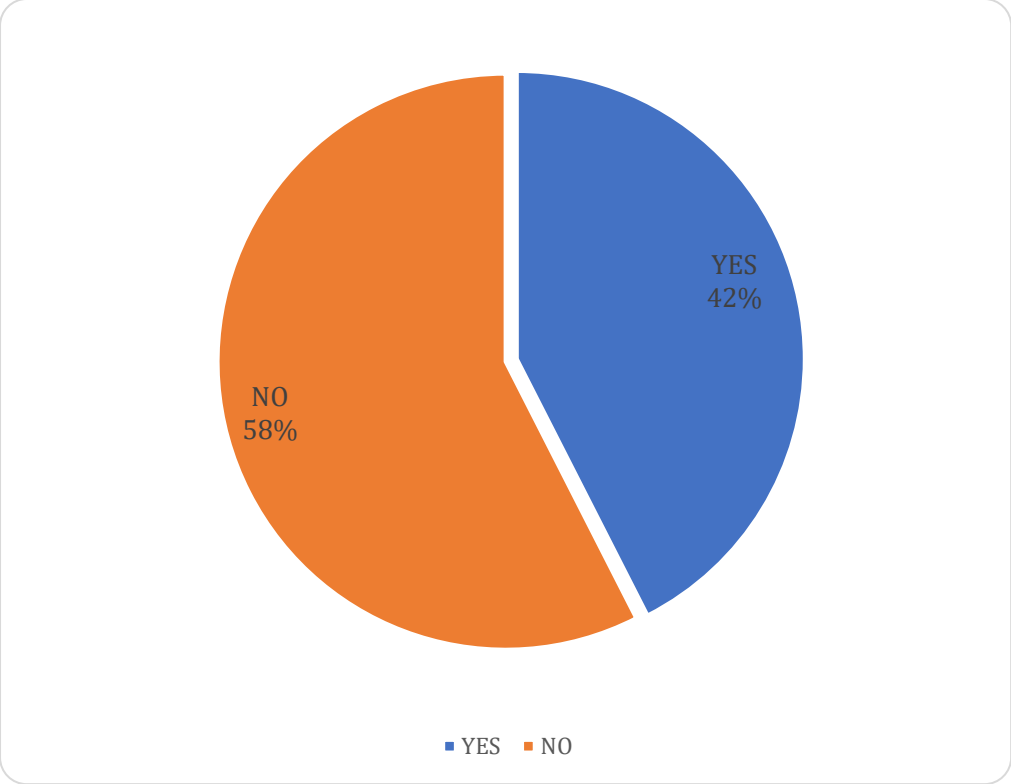
Environmental criteria consider how a company safeguards the environment, including corporate policies addressing climate change, for example. Social criteria examine how it manages relationships with employees, suppliers, customers, and the communities where it operates. Governance deals with a company's leadership, executive pay, audits, and internal controls. For BIDs 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[53]. This year the data suggests that 42% [2025,48%; 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.

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[49] https://www.investopedia.com/terms/e/environmental-social-and-governance-esg-criteria.asp
[50] 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.
[51] https://unglobalcompact.org/
[52] 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

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

Figure 34 Interest in ESG issues



Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation

The new Devolution Act [54], 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 original plans [55] for a large reorganisation of local government have been put on hold after the government received new legal advice that suggested they might not comply with the law. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) said the review was to ensure the process was robust and

[54] https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2026/23

[55] https://www.theguardian.com/society/2026/sep/07/angela-rayner-flagship-local-government-overhaul-on-hold

aligned with the new government's aim to "rewire the state" and followed "updated and privileged legal advice". The reorganisation plans, announced in December 2024, proposed the abolition of the current two-tier system of districts and counties in favour of a smaller number of unitary authorities – or "mega-councils" – covering large areas.

The new Strategic Authorities, mirroring the existing elected Mayoralties [56] in areas such as the West Midlands and Manchester, along with the new Unitary Authorities, will replace the LEPs and other regional economic agencies and will lead on economic development including tourism.

Table 39 Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation



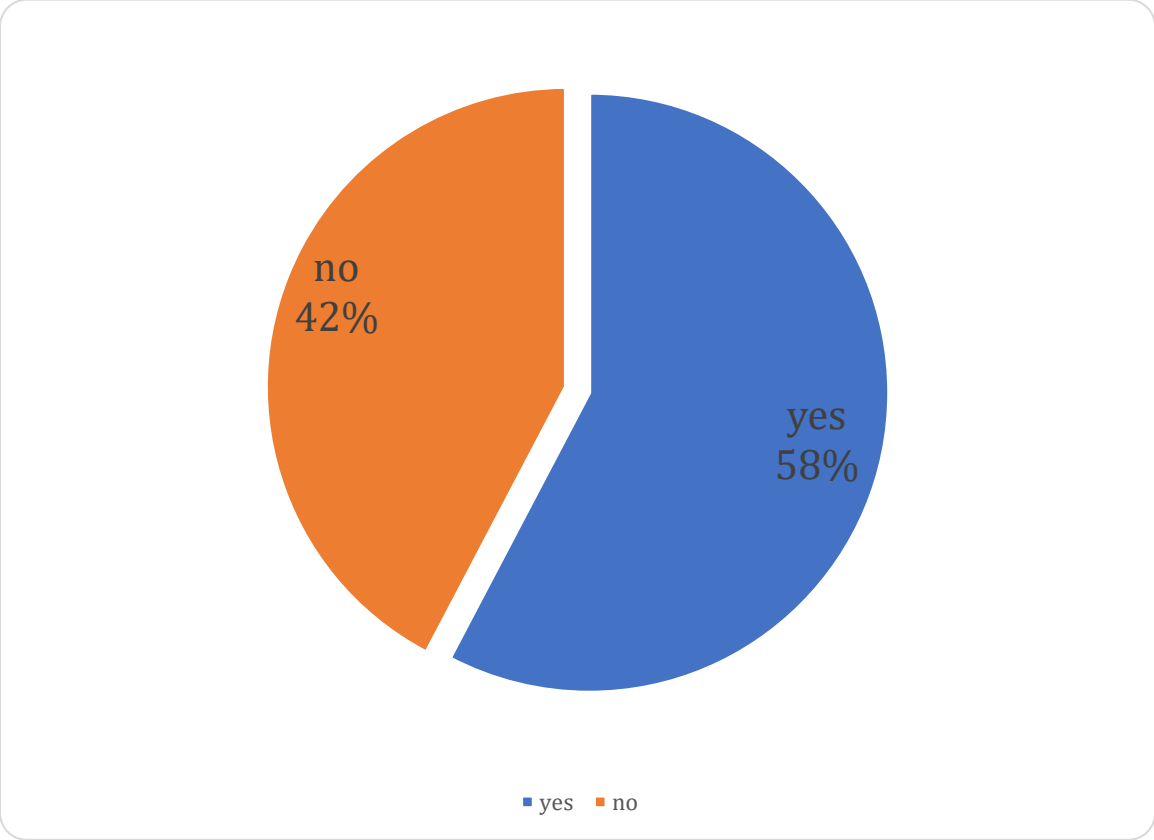
Overnight Visitor levies

It was not initially proposed that Elected Mayoral and Strategic Authorities would have any tourism tax powers as they have in Scotland and Wales, but this was

56 https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Directly_elected_mayors_in_England

amended by the introduction of the new Overnight Visitor Levy [57], which would have serious repercussions for many Business Improvement Districts.

BIDs were asked about the Overnight Visitor Levy is being proposed by government, and whether this will cause them concerns. Clearly there are worries in 58% of responses



Destination Management Organizations and LVEPs

Destination Management Organisations (DMOs)[58] 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[59] 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

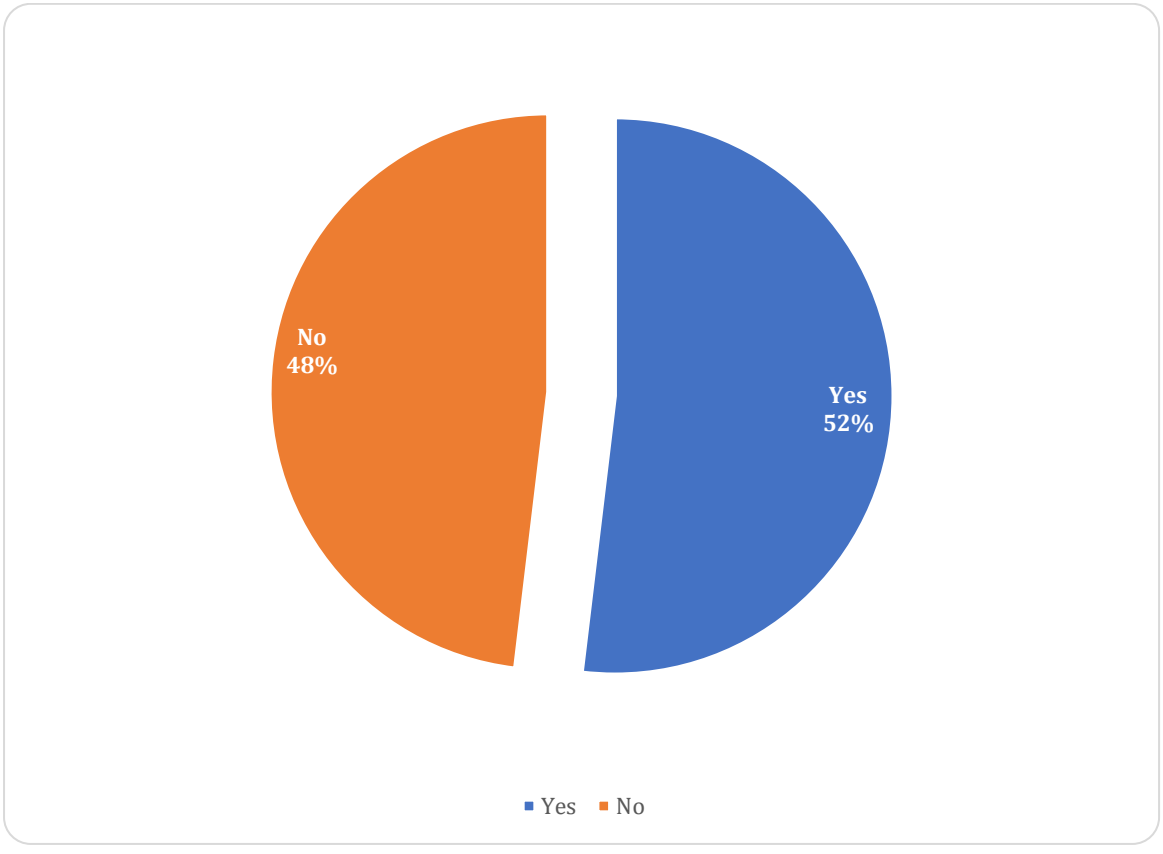
[57] https://www.gov.uk/government/news/local-leaders-handed-powers-to-drive-investment-in-communities
[58] https://www.visitbritain.org/resources-destination-partners/dmo-review
[59] https://www.visitbritain.org/resources-destination-partners/local-visitor-economy-partnership-lvep-programme

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 52% 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.

Figure 35 Destination Management Organisations



Service and professional sector support from BIDs

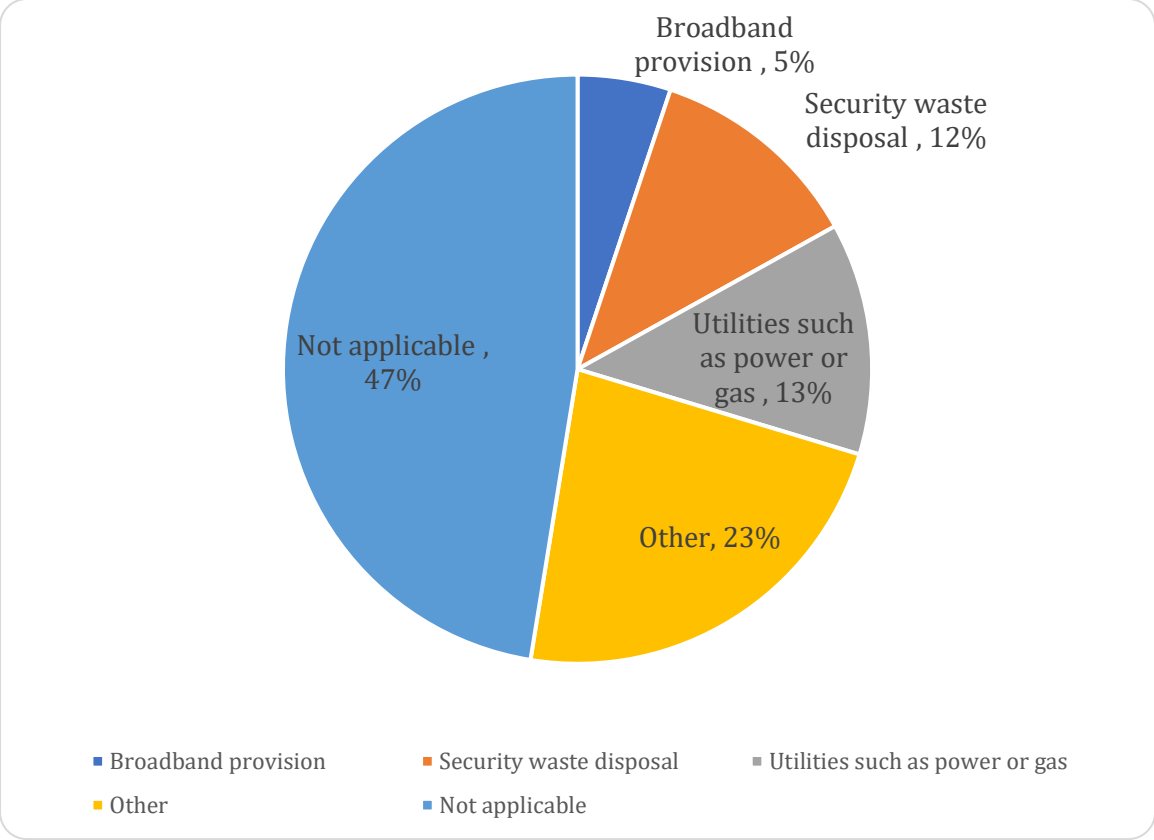
A question that was suggested by a number of BIDs for previous surveys, and has continued this year, was the level of specific support by BIDs for non-retail activity. It is evident that many BIDs are starting to focus on their service industries as it becomes clearer how vital they are to the health 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 [60].

The responses to the survey suggest that BIDs are still evolving in their thinking on support for professional services, with a surprising 47% [2025, 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 provision. There has also been a growth in office and administration area BIDs in the last year or so.

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

Figure 36: 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 [61,] 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[62]; 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.

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

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.

Business Crime Reduction Partnerships

Most BIDs 80% [2025, 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 an 11.6 percentage point increase on three years ago and is indicative of the growing importance of BCRPs.

Figure 37 Percentage of BIDs involvement in Business crime Reduction Partnerships

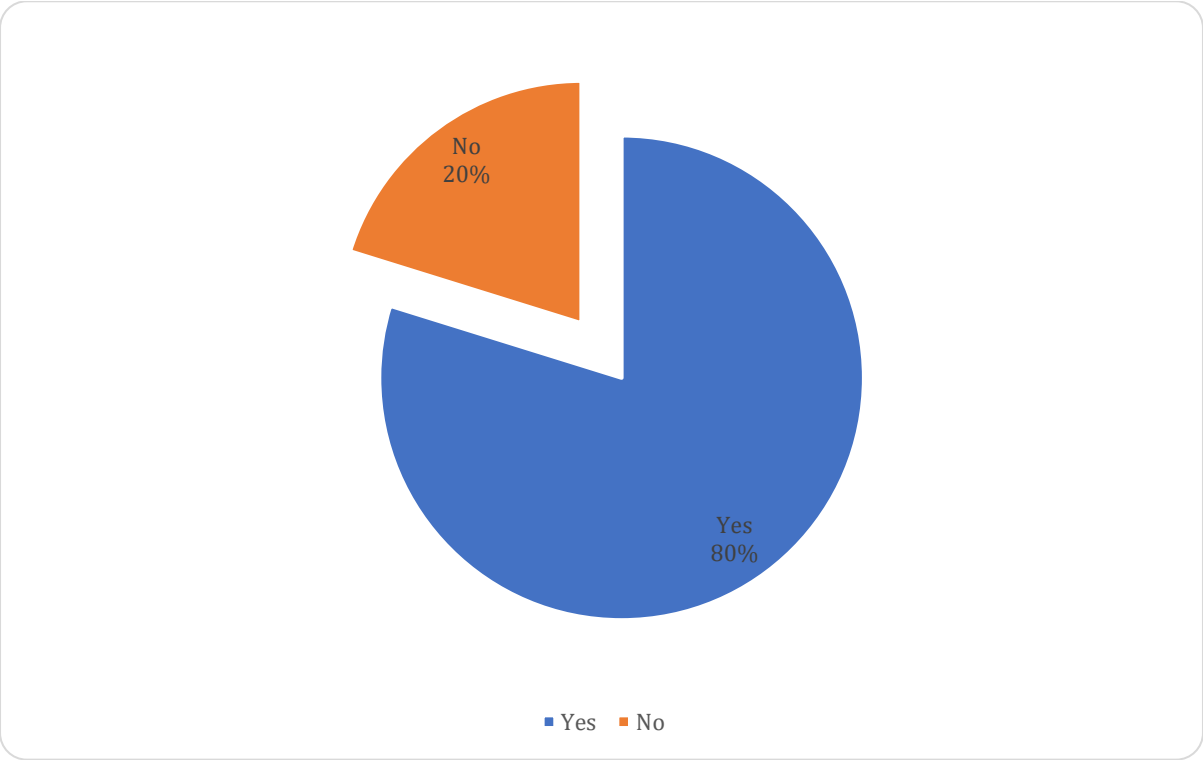
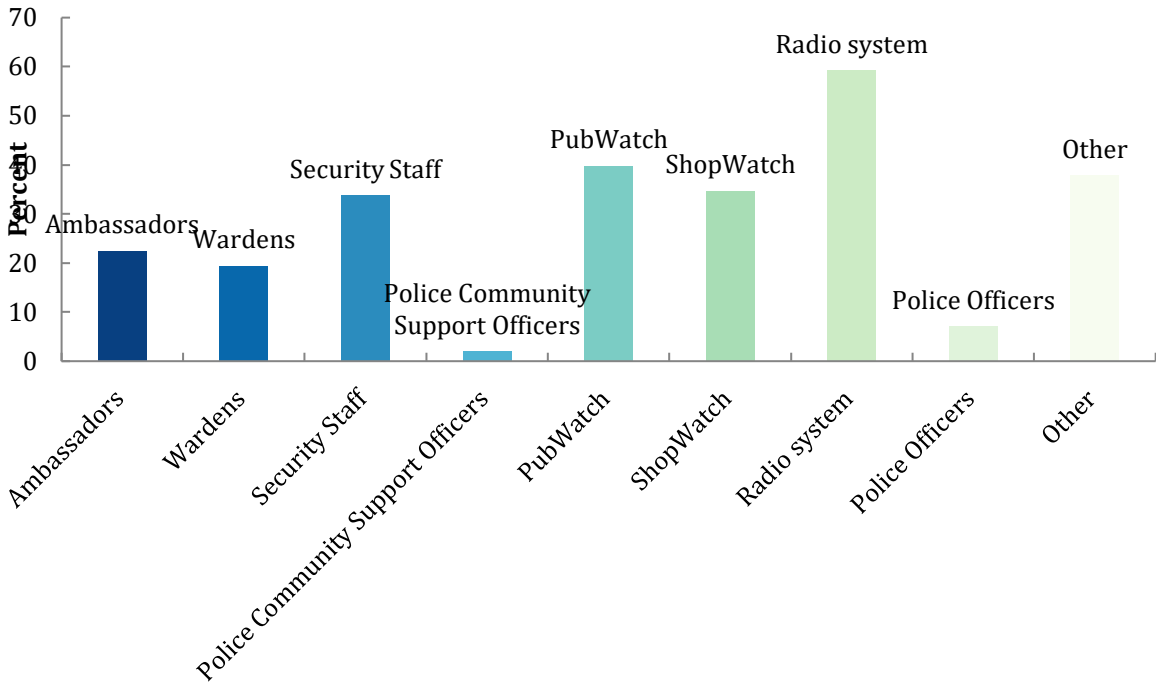


Figure 38 BID funded involvement in Business crime reduction



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[63] [64], with originally three separate funding streams: Towns Fund [65], Future High Streets Fund [66] and then the Heritage Action Zone[67] ; these were worth in total some £3.6 billion, and some overlap in terminology and money[68]. This was then augmented by another £50m of EU funding to respond to Covid-19. Very recently, a new Long-

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

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

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

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

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

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

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'[69]. The third round of the Levelling Up Fund was launched in mid-November 2023 [70].

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

Finally, and more recently the government has announced the new Pride in Place[71] funding allocation to 339[72] specific communities

Thus, overall, some £20 Billion[73] 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 [74].The final analysis of the impact and efficacy of this funding is not yet clear[75] and British BIDs will attempt to produce a synopsis as soon as it can. Interestingly, some 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 [76] 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.

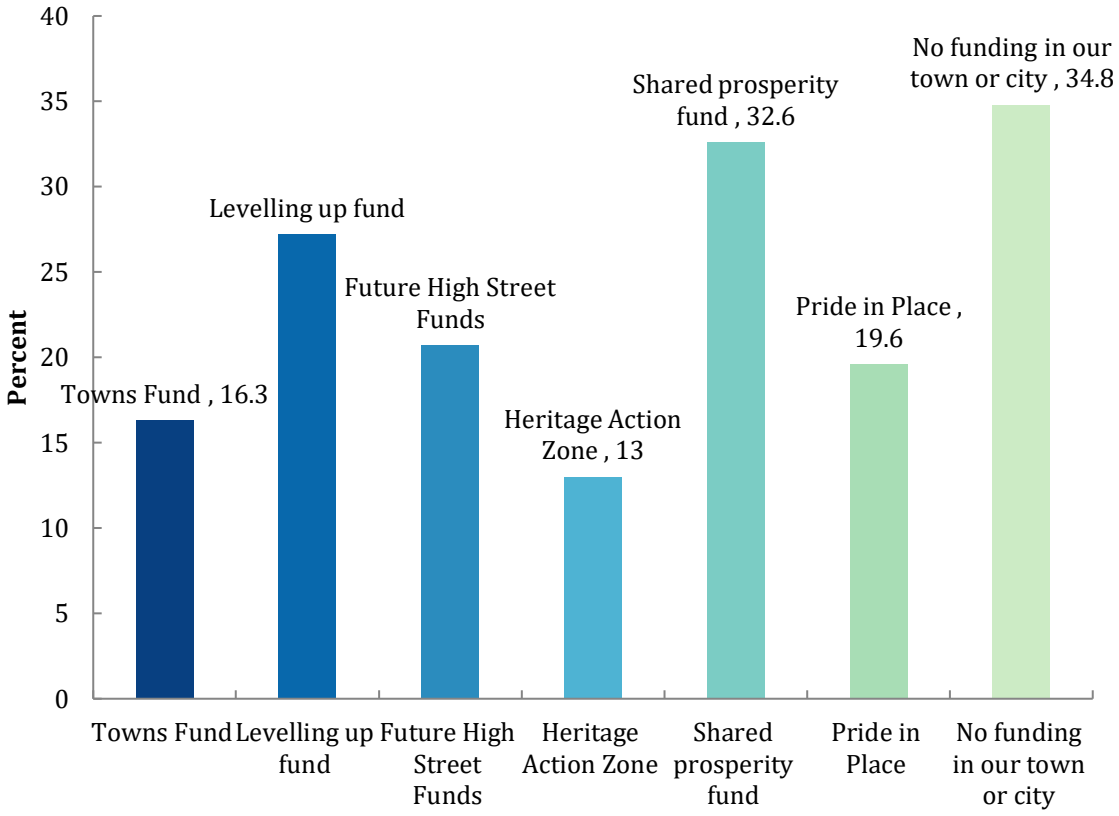
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[69] https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prime-minister-puts-local-people-in-control-of-more-than-1-billion-with-long-term-plan-for-left-behind-towns
[70] https://dwfgroup.com/en/news-and-insights/insights/2023/10/levelling-up-fund-round-3-to-be-launched-in-november-2023#:~:text=The%20%C2%A34.8%20billion%20Levelling,the%20United%20Kingdom%20since%202021.
[71] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pride-in-place-programme-place-selection-methodology-note
[72] https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c1mx8vr2gr1o
[73] https://levellingup.campaign.gov.uk/
[74] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/towns-fund-further-guidance
[75] https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/which-areas-have-benefited-from-the-levelling-up-fund/
[76] https://improvementdistricts.scot/

The survey data suggest that some 75% of all BIDs are engaged in one or other of the government levelling up project lines, with some involved in several, although 34% are not expecting to receive any funding.

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

Figure 39: Central government Funding % BID recipients



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

Figure 40 Improving the BID model responses

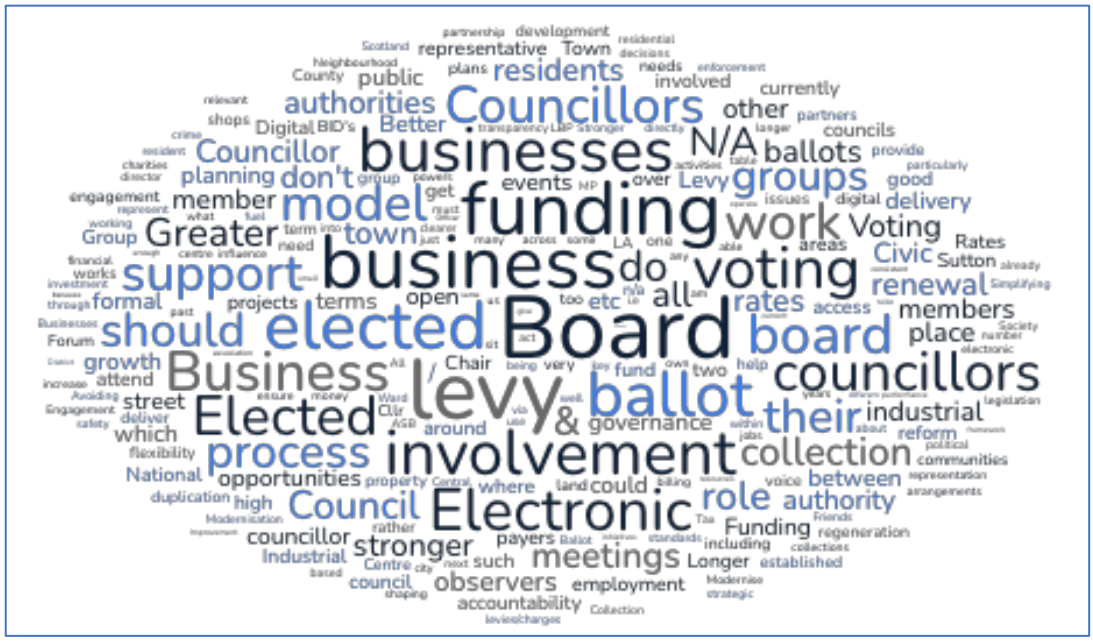


Table 40 Improving the BID model

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.

Figure 41 Standards for BIDs



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

The data sources and methodology 2026

There are three data sources for this annual report and survey: the evidence collected for the monthly British BIDs Insights and Ballot Watches, the core data for the whole BID industry that British BIDs collect 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 [77] 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

[77] https://britishbids.info/services/bid-index

gathered consistently since this survey began, and the total population is now 1205 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, 2026. 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 on September 1st 2026 to the 345 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, 2026.

126 [35.4%] 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 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.

Anonymity

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.

The headline totals are drawn from the continuously maintained industry dataset, but some of the governance, operational and attitudinal findings come from 126 questionnaire responses, representing 35.4 % of the 345 BID managers or chief executives contacted. These findings should therefore be treated as indicative rather than as measures of the whole sector. Several impact claims later in the report rely on external research or practitioner evidence and require complete source references before publication.

Acknowledgements

We thank all our British BIDs colleagues, particularly Maria Chapman-Beer and Mel Richardson for their time on the data collection for this annual review, and of course we thank the 126 BIDs that responded to the survey and those BIDs that kindly responded to the phone calls checking data.

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