

It's been two weeks since the final day of this year's UKREiiF gathering in Leeds; during which the Prime Minister announced that a General Election will be held on 4 July, which is now, of course, only four weeks away. As such, it's a good time to reflect on some of the issues that were being discussed and debated in Leeds, and to speculate as to how these will play out in the run up to election day.

It was my first time at UKREiiF and I was there as part of a collaborative arrangement with British BIDs, ATCM, The BID Foundation, and the Institute of Place Management - brilliantly brought together by Andrew Cooper and his colleagues at Leeds BID. Together, we co-sponsored an exhibition stand which highlighted and celebrated the fact that BIDs have been operating in the UK for 20 years.

It seemed that everyone was at UKREiiF - businesses, developers, investors, architects, local government representatives, ministers, think tanks, the media - and it was good to discuss the achievements and successes of BIDs with a wide range of people. I was struck by how much common ground there was at UKREiiF - everyone there wants the same thing - successful places that deliver for people, for businesses, and for the environment.

As such, the question isn't really the **what**, but the **how**. Andrew and I participated in an interesting session on the concept of an ECO-BID, and we both gave examples of BIDs that are doing great work on net zero, biodiversity, and other aspects of the climate challenge - for the benefit of businesses, communities, residents and visitors. This is a great illustration of how adaptable and flexible the BID model is in addressing issues of local and global concern.

I came away from Leeds with a renewed sense of purpose and a conviction that we must do more to show partners and stakeholders how BIDs and the BID model can readily respond to the challenges of today and tomorrow, and how our collective track record demonstrates our enduring relevance and ability to get things done. This is an agenda that we'll take forward with the new Government - whatever the outcome of the General Election.

We'll be back at UKREiiF in 2025, but there is so much to do before then. As part of Savills Place, British BIDs is clear what we stand for and what we can deliver in leading the BID industry and supporting the interests and values of BIDs and the work that they do.

After a process of engaging with BIDs across the UK and Ireland and with our key partners and stakeholders, we'll be launching our new **Prospectus** before the Election. This isn't a manifesto for BIDs. Rather, it's a straightforward and business-oriented statement as to how British BIDs will continue to work with our members and portfolio of BIDs, how we'll work to establish BIDs where they are needed, and how we'll provide guidance, advice and support to BIDs and partners where appropriate.

Our **Prospectus** will also set out our commitment to be the authoritative body when it comes to research and data on BIDs across the UK and Ireland, and our plans to broaden and strengthen our training to reflect the needs of the BIDs industry. I look forward to sharing it with you in the coming weeks.



Nic Durston, Chair of British BIDs