



## British BIDs news

11<sup>th</sup> October 2007

### Government publishes Supplementary Business Rates: A White Paper

Following the Lyons Review, the government has this week published a white paper on Supplementary Business Rates. This news has not been welcomed by the business community, as widely reported in the press, with the British Retail Consortium referring to it as a 'disaster' and many concerns being raised about the impact on smaller businesses, despite the exemptions outlined below. Of course of great concern to us is the potential impact of the proposed Supplementary Business Rates on BIDs and British BIDs will be making a formal response to the paper to this effect.

The main points of the white paper are as follows:

- The Supplementary Business Rate (SBR) will be capped at 2p in the pound
- Businesses under £50,000 Rateable Value will be exempt
- Where the SBR will support more than a third of the total cost of a project there will be a full dual-key ballot of businesses affected (on straight majority and rateable value)
- SBRs can only be used to fund additional economic development projects that can not be funded through any other means
- The decision to implement SBR will rest with highest-tier local authorities, in consultation with lower Local Authorities
- In London the power will rest with the Greater London Authority
- Local authorities must undertake a statutory consultation with local businesses and other stakeholders.

In relation to BIDs, it proposes that:

- The decision to offset the BID levy be delegated to local authorities
- In some cases this offsetting will not be appropriate as the additional liability for the BID, as well as the business rate supplement, will reflect the additional benefits received by those in the BID.
- The arrangements for local accountability set out in the Paper will provide businesses, including those in BIDs, to raise concerns if they feel that the proposed treatment under a supplement is not appropriate.
- As with BIDs, provision will be made to enable owners of occupied properties to make voluntary contributions equivalent to a business rate supplement.

We shall of course keep you up-to-date with the debates surrounding the paper and how its proposals will relate to BIDs.

## British BIDs Events

- **British BIDs Network events**

Look out for details of the second round of British BIDs Network events in the next British BIDs news bulletin. These will take place in November and December for formal and developing BIDs.

- **British BIDs Industrial Seminar:** Industrial BIDs – Making A Difference – Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> November 2007. For further information or to book a place on this seminar please email [bookings@britishbids.info](mailto:bookings@britishbids.info)

## British BIDs Information Systems – FAQs

Do you have any queries regarding the new British BIDs Information Systems? This incorporates: Evaluation, Registration, BID Property Database Links and Company Contacts. If so please see the attached Frequently Asked Questions document. This document is also available on our website.

## British BIDs Pension Scheme

The British BIDs Pension scheme is now up and running. Please find attached a poster containing more information. If you would like to receive further information on the scheme, please contact [mike.edwards@pfp.co.uk](mailto:mike.edwards@pfp.co.uk).

## Public Access to toilets: BID case studies required

The Government believes that access to toilets is a measure of the quality of our public spaces and good toilet facilities provided by local authorities or other organisations further contribute to an areas economic vitality.

A Steering Group consisting of representatives from local government, the British Toilet Association, professional institutes, the voluntary and private sectors and other bodies, has been established to advise the Government in developing a strategic guide on increasing access to toilet facilities for all sections of the community.

The Group will be focussing on removing barriers to increasing public provision of toilets and looking at innovative ways of enabling public access to alternative provision. The Government aims to publish the guide by the end of the year, and are currently looking for case studies where BID money has been used for toilet provision (i.e. temporary or permanent) to go into the guide. If you have a relevant example, please contact [Tim.Elligot@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Tim.Elligot@communities.gsi.gov.uk)

## BIDs in the news

The following BIDs have been covered in the media since the last British BIDs news bulletin:

- Formal BIDs: Croydon, Birmingham Broad Street
- Developing BID: Newcastle, Royal Leamington Spa, Edinburgh

Full details of these articles and other BID related press coverage can be found in the Media Centre at [www.britishbids.info](http://www.britishbids.info)

## Vacancies

Please see the British BIDs website for information on an exciting job opportunity as BID Manager for the Reading BID.

**For more information about British BIDs and how to become a member visit [www.britishbids.info](http://www.britishbids.info) or email [contact@britishbids.info](mailto:contact@britishbids.info) or telephone 01414 160144**

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