



THE BID
FOUNDATION



Institute of Place Management

OUR WORK: 2020





Securing emergency funding for BIDs

TBF took a lead in working across the Sector in Summer 2020, to lobby governments, helping to secure a [£6.1 million funding package](#) in England, and influencing the introduction of similar support in the devolved nations. In announcing support for BIDs, High Streets Minister Simon Clarke MP publicly acknowledged the vital role of the sector in the national recovery.

28 support webinars, over 200 BID representatives

We worked to provide regular advice, peer-to-peer support, and sector-level organisation through our webinar programme in 2020. Convening every week during the emergence of COVID-19, the first national lockdowns and post-lockdown periods, this series has continued to grow. Over 70 BIDs joined our latest webinar in early January and TBF continues to programme webinars around the priorities of its Members. 2021 will continue this support programme with topics themed to match our 'Future BIDs' theme and the topical needs of the sector.

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BIDs are uniquely placed and have a proven track record of success in supporting local businesses, empowering communities, championing our town centres and driving forward the renewal of our high streets.

Simon Clarke MP,
former High Streets
Minister

A national voice as Co-Chair of the Sector Leaders Group

Throughout 2020, The BID Foundation Chair, Bill Addy, also Co-Chaired the [Sector Leaders Group](#) – collaborating to accelerate the positive transformation of high streets alongside other leading sector groups. The SLG has fed back intelligence to government and a wide range of stakeholders, including on the work of BIDs and their role in place making and COVID-19 recovery. We'll continue to lead this group in 2021 and beyond.





BID best practice: shared with policy & place makers

We've been sharing the inspirational work of BIDs around the UK, showcasing leadership of recovery planning, community and business support, and your commitment to your levy payers. We published a [COVID-19 Recovery Toolkit](#) early in the pandemic and have also shared your work in developing Recovery Frameworks. This has also been a major contributor to the High Streets Task Force Resource Library – with BIDs being the 'first movers' and [examples](#) for other place makers to follow.

Practical support on BID operations, billing and ballots

The BID Foundation has worked to develop a range of guidance notes and briefing documents for BIDs, levy payers, and government in 2020. From operating during COVID-19 to different approaches for levy collection and ballots, we continue to support our Membership, and to represent them to stakeholders to ensure that the BID context and value is best understood.

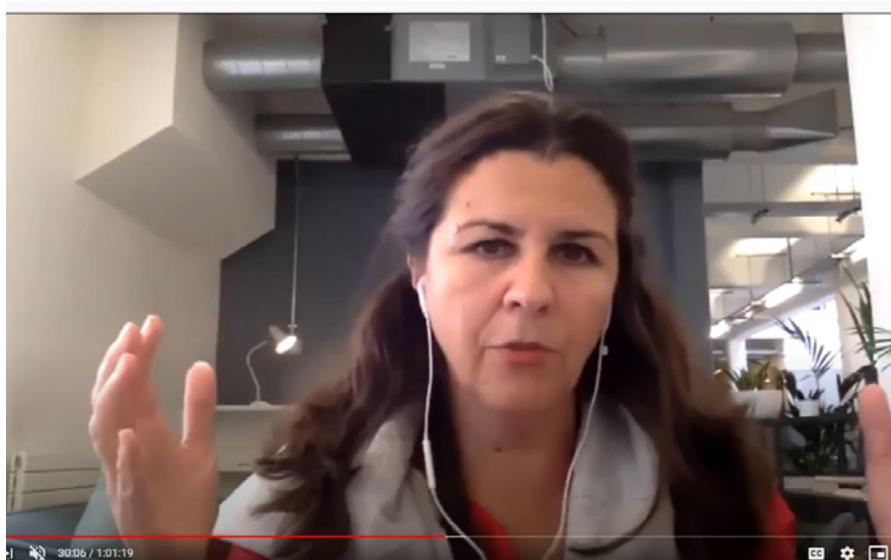
Launching Industry Standards

With support from many of our BID Members, governments and other sector bodies, we launched the [TBF Industry Standards](#). The new Standards were designed to help increase the transparency, accountability and professionalism of the industry, and around 20 BIDs have started adopting these from November 2020. The accreditation is being used to demonstrate to levy payers and others that BIDs are attaining sector-leading standards. We hope all our Members can achieve these in 2021, further strengthening the sector and its reputation.

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Place management and leadership is the coordination, the glue and the direction that brings together all the different approaches to improving places and dealing with crisis”

Professor Cathy Parker - IPM webinar Nov '20



Emma Jones MBE of Enterprise Nation speaks to TBF Members on business resilience (Sept 2020)



Future BIDs Working Group - setting the agenda for 2021

In September 2020, working with a group of 18 Member BIDs, we produced a report on the 'Future BID' - highlighting anticipated change for the Sector. This wide-ranging, strategic discussion is a rich source of intelligence that TBF will continue to develop throughout 2021 - adding to a live document that directs our programme of support and interaction with government stakeholders. The Future BID exercise showed how integral BIDs are, delivering services over and above the long-held typical view of a BID's remit.

IPM Events and Resources

TBF Membership also provides individual Membership to the IPM - and this year has been busier than ever, with monthly events, book launches, COVID-19 recovery planning sessions, and recent masterclass training sessions. IPM's academic and practitioner insights into place making have helped inform the TBF programme and provide a change of perspective for those working in BIDs. We'll have another packed programme in 2021.

Direct support from the TBF team

Throughout 2020, TBF has further developed its direct links with Members, working outside of the scheduled programme to consult with BIDs and support your work and decision making. This type of support continues to be available anytime and this year covered: BID contingency planning, local funding bids, grant eligibility and processes, communications and marketing, reporting, digital skills and online events, lockdown and reopening high streets, and many, many more. We're indebted to TBF Members - our eyes and ears on the ground at such a critical time.

Representing BIDs to HM Government

In 2020, we continued to grow our relationships within MHCLG and BEIS, and responded to white paper consultations on planning and the business rates system. IPM Co-Chair, Prof Cathy Parker, shared examples of BID support to the Communities and Local Government Committee on COVID-19 and, during the height of the first lockdown in England, our business survey via TBF Members was a key resource to help understand the effectiveness of government aid.

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The period has been a positive reminder that BIDs across the country provide a vital ground level service outside the reach of any other business organisation or local authority.

'The Future BID' - Discussion Report





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We hope you'll join us in 2021.

We'll be continuing the work alongside our Members and announcing more details on our 2021 programme very shortly.

If you'd like to discuss any aspect of our support, or ask for guidance on an issue your BID is dealing with, contact:

info@bidfoundation.co.uk