



Department for  
Communities and  
Local Government

## Government Review of Business Improvement Districts

As part of the [town centre announcement in December 2013](#), a commitment was made for a review of business improvement districts.

The review was undertaken during the spring and summer 2014 involving Business Improvement Districts, sector leads and local authorities.

See an explanation of what a [Business Improvement District is](#).

Following the review we intend to implement the following:

- Provide the opportunity for Business Improvement District bodies to run local authority services by adding them to the list of relevant bodies that can challenge to run local authority services under the Right to Challenge.
- Increase involvement of Business Improvement District bodies in planning, by encouraging a bespoke approach to consultation.
- Guidance to encourage local authorities to involve Business Improvement District contribution at planning committees on relevant applications and ensure their views are heard.
- Set out in Community Infrastructure Levy guidance the importance of local authorities working with Business Improvement District bodies when developing Community Infrastructure Levy charges and identifying appropriate infrastructure.
- Increase transparency for all Business Improvement District bodies to strengthen accountability and quality, for example by requiring they publish annual report and accounts.
- Mandating the use of a standard Service Level Agreement for Business Improvement District bodies and local authorities to use that could cover a number of issues in order to encourage closer working.
- Amending the guidance to local authorities to ensure they carefully consider exempting from the Late Night Levy, any eligible Business Improvement Districts that are already funding night time economy measures.
- Allowing areas that have not been successful in previous ballots to apply to the Business Improvement District Loan Fund for support following a period of at least 3 years between ballots.
- Updating Compulsory Purchase Order guidance to ensure that local authorities properly consider a request from a Business Improvement District body to use Compulsory Purchase Order powers and provide a formal response.

- Publishing guidance and best practice to cover the package of measures outlined above. The guidance could also: highlight examples of good partnership working between Business Improvement District bodies and local authorities; set out the benefits to local authorities of Business Improvement Districts (including the increased investment they can deliver); suggest approaches to encourage closer working; and include an explanation of the regulations.
- Undertake further work on the issue of local authority charges for Business Improvement District levy collection.
- Undertake further work to look at the possibility of allowing Business Improvement Districts to bring forward neighbourhood plans and neighbourhood development orders in non-parished areas without the need to create a neighbourhood forum.