

Subject: Response to the Regeneration Committee's Report on Business Improvement Districts

Report to: Regeneration Committee

Report of: Executive Director of Secretariat

Date: 13 October 2016

This report will be considered in public

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report sets out for noting the response from the Mayor, to the Committee's report, *The Role of BIDs in London's Regeneration*.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 **That the Committee notes the response from the Mayor to the Committee's report, *The Role of BIDs in London's regeneration*, as attached at Appendix 1 to this report.**

3. Background

Business Improvement Districts

- 3.1 The Regeneration Committee decided to undertake an investigation into Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) and used its meeting slot on 13 October 2015 for a discussion with invited guests. The terms of reference for that scrutiny were:
- To assess the contribution of BIDs to local regeneration in London;
 - To examine whether BIDs should have an expanded and more strategic role in regenerating local areas;
 - To assess the implications of any expansion of BIDs' activities for local accountability arrangements;
 - To examine the effectiveness of the financial and leadership support that local authorities, the Mayor and the LEP provide to BIDs; and
 - To make recommendations to the next Mayor about whether to encourage growth in the number of BIDs and if so what further support is required to set up and sustain them.

- 3.2 The report can be accessed [here](#).¹ It contains the following recommendations for the Mayor:

Recommendation 1

The next Mayor should encourage all BIDs in London to sign up to a set of principles governing BID management, by establishing a London Standard as a good practice code for BIDs. As part of this:

- a) The Mayor should consult on adopting the principles set out in British BIDs' publication, The Principles of Effective BIDs.
- b) The Mayor should review and promote good practice for involving residents and non-business stakeholders in BID governance.
- c) Minimum turnout thresholds should be introduced when establishing a London BID, to incentivise more thorough outreach among the local business community.
- d) The next Mayor should promote landowner involvement in BIDs.

Recommendation 2

The next Mayor should continue to fund BIDs in the set-up phase where there is local business community demand for them, but the GLA should also use some funding to support a diversified offer to established BIDs.

Recommendation 3

In areas with limited capacity to support BIDs, the next Mayor should investigate options for providing a coaching mechanism to enable emerging BIDs to receive support from established BIDs.

Recommendation 4

The next Mayor should commit to strengthening links between London's BIDs and the LEP. The SME Working Group should also examine options to expand BIDs' eligibility to bid as delivery partners for more LEP and GLA funding programmes.

- 3.3 The response of the former Mayor was reported to the Committee on 12 July 2016. Following that meeting the Chair wrote to the current Mayor for a response.

4. Issues for Consideration

- 4.1 The response from the Mayor to the Committee's BIDs report, dated 1 August 2016, is attached at **Appendix 1** for the Committee to note.

¹ <https://www.london.gov.uk/about-us/london-assembly/london-assembly-publications/business-improvement-districts>

5. Legal Implications

5.1 The Committee has the power to do what is recommended in this report.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 There are no financial implications to the Greater London Authority arising from this report.

List of appendices to this report:

Appendix 1: Response from the Mayor of London to the Regeneration Committee's report *Business Improvement Districts – The role of BID's in London's Regeneration*, dated 1 August 2016

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985
List of Background Papers: None.
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