

SWBA BID Achievements 2018–2019

Accessible and Coordinated: the BID has been working to represent, advocate and further the interests of the SWBA business community, particularly in relation to transport issues, Council services, accessibility and connectivity. As a result:

- SWBA BID is recognised as a formal consultee for local planning, transport and policing matters. We have met local Council officials to discuss and lobby on a range of issues and are represented on the local Police Safer Neighbourhood Panel, the Sustainable Communities and Transport Partnership Board and on the Mayor of London's Industrial BIDs Group. This has enabled us to put across the views of our businesses to influence decisions made by public authorities;
- We have held quarterly meetings for our members to provide a forum for discussion and to gather views from businesses;
- We have continued to lobby on behalf of our businesses on a range of issues, including improvements to street cleaning and removal of fly tipping, and have kept businesses informed about incidents which have occurred such as vehicle and fuel theft and traveller encampments on the estate;
- We commissioned a survey of parking and traffic flow within the SWBA BID area which was undertaken at the end of Year 1 and beginning of Year 2. The results of this were made available to BID members and have subsequently formed the basis of discussions with Merton Council and Transport for London (TfL) to seek improvements to traffic and parking management and pedestrian safety. In the light of concerns expressed by the BID regarding pedestrian safety, TfL has consulted publicly about the introduction of a controlled pedestrian crossing at the junction of Jubilee Way and Morden Road. The BID also responded formally to TfL's public consultation on an extension to the existing tram route;
- We have also begun to consider how to develop ideas for zoned and branded estate signage and plan to take this forward in Year 3.

Enhanced Business Environment: to ensure SWBA's environment is visibly improved, better maintained, cleaner, safer and more attractive.

This has been the main focus of activity in Years 1 and 2.

- An independent audit of security on the estate was carried out in April 2018. The outcome of this and its recommendations were made available to BID members and we have been working in Year 2 on improvements to security around the BID area;
- We have been working with Merton Council on measures to upgrade the existing CCTV arrangements within the BID area. The BID Board has consequently decided to purchase six new cameras to replace the existing cameras which are reaching the end of their natural lifespan;

- The street lighting on the public roads on the estate was upgraded in Year 1 and we plan to work to bring the remaining street lighting on private roads up to the required standard in consultation with the relevant landlords during the remainder of the BID term;
- The BID's part-time Estate Ranger has now been working for the past 18 months to improve and maintain the estate by litter picking, carrying out light maintenance and liaising with the Council and the police to tackle issues including fly tipping, crime and anti-social behaviour when these arise;
- We have had ongoing discussions with the Council and its contractors about the need to ensure that an acceptable standard of street cleaning is maintained within the BID area;
- An independent green audit of the BID area has been undertaken by landscape students from the University of East London and a report produced containing suggestions for a number of projects which might be implemented. These are being considered as a basis for discussion with the Council and landlords as appropriate and for identifying potential sources of grant funding and will be progressed in Year 3.

Cost Saving, Combined Purchasing and Business Promotion: to reduce operating costs, increase trade and increase staff retention through facilitated bulk purchasing, inter-business trading, staff discounts and joint training.

We have been working on a number of measures and the following have been achieved in Years 1 and 2:

- All BID levy paying businesses have received free membership of Merton Chamber of Commerce;
- We introduced a cost-saving procurement scheme for utilities and other services at the end of 2018 in partnership with Meercat Associates. This is being progressively rolled out to BID members;
- We have offered subsidised cost places to BID levy paying members for several first aid and fire warden training courses run by Merton Chamber of Commerce during the course of the year;
- We have now set up a business directory on the SWBA website to promote our member companies and produced a video about the BID. We will be working in Year 3 to further develop the website.

We have also been continuing to work with Merton Council to complete a formal contract between the BID and the Council to ensure that the Council's statutory and regulatory contractual obligations are fulfilled. This has been considerably delayed due to circumstances largely outside the BID's control but the intention is for this to be finalised in the near future.

2018-2019 Expenditure

As at 30 June 2019, the BID had received £100,825.44 of the anticipated income of £112,500 for the second year of the BID term. Whilst an additional sum due has recently been paid by BID levy payers to Merton Council and will shortly be transferred to the BID there remains an amount outstanding and the Council continues to pursue this.

Total expenditure in 2018-2019 was £101,316.38. This includes some £13,000 for a number of regular payments due to be made imminently for the final part of the BID financial year. The total amount also takes into account a capital payment of £38,818 for the purchase of new CCTV cameras and this expenditure is allocated within the Enhanced Business Environment sector.

The BID is fully committed to ensuring that the levy collected will be utilised in line with its stated objectives and that any surplus funds will be apportioned accordingly.

The split of actual expenditure was as follows:

Accessible and Coordinated (9.8%)	£9,938.65
Enhanced Business Environment (52.02%)	£52,701.08
Cost Saving, Combined Purchasing and Promotion (21.7%)	£21,985.85
Admin and Levy Collection (11.93%)	£12,082.18
Overheads (0.14%)	£143.00
Contingency (4.41%)	£4,465.62