

**BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS (SCOTLAND) STEERING GROUP  
VICTORIA QUAY, EDINBURGH – 30 NOVEMBER 2006**

**Present:**

**David Henderson**, Scottish Executive Finance & Central Services Department (Chair)

**Ken Bruce**, Royal Bank of Scotland

**Garry Clark**, Scottish Chambers of Commerce (SCC)

**David Davidson**, Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS)

**Vicki Lewis**, COSLA

**Andy McCann**, Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI)

**Ken Jobling**, Scottish Executive Development Department

**Ian Davison Porter**, Scottish Executive, BIDS Project Director

**Lucile Rankin**, Scottish Executive, Principal Estates Surveyor

**Euan Dobson**, Scottish Enterprise

**Charlie Shanlin**, (City of Edinburgh Council)

**Katherine Armstead**, (Land Securities)

**Jane Wood**, (Boots PLC)

**Andy Godfrey**, (Boots PLC)

**Secretariat:**

**Nikola Plunkett**, Scottish Executive Finance & Central Services Department

**Raymond Convill**, Scottish Executive Finance & Central Services Department

**Item 1: Welcome and introductions**

1. Apologies had been received from Jacquie Reilly (Association of Town Centre Management), Alison Beer (Forum of Private Business), William Somerville (Scottish Assessors), Susan Cooper (Aberdeen City Council), Mike Peterson (Institute of Rating, Revenues and Valuation) and Fiona Moriarty (Scottish Retail Consortium).

**Items 2 and 3: Minutes of last meeting and matters arising**

2. The minutes of the last meeting were agreed. There were no matters arising not covered in the remainder of the agenda.

**Item 3.1: Legislation Update**

3. Nikola Plunkett provided the group with a brief update on legislative progress, which is on track to provide legislation to support the introduction of BIDs in Scotland by 1 April 2007. The primary legislation has completed its passage through the Scottish Parliament and the secondary legislation will be laid in February after the primary legislation has received Royal Assent. It is anticipated that there will be further consultation on the draft Scottish secondary Orders between December and January.

**Item 4: BIDs presentations**

4. The 6 BIDs pilot projects each made short presentations to the group on their progress so far and their plans for future activity. There was a short Q&A session at the end of each presentation. David Henderson thanked each of the pilots for their contributions.

## **Item 5: Steering Group Report – Additional Funding 2006-07**

5. The Executive had received additional funding requests for 2006-07 from three of the BID pilot projects. A range of views were expressed by members of the Group on these applications. On balance, the majority of those present supported awards for Bathgate, Edinburgh and Glasgow in line with the applications made. However, some reservations were expressed by some members of the Group about the appropriateness of awarding funding for the demonstration-type project sought by Bathgate and there was a view that any award of this nature should be exceptional and (slightly) below the amount sought. This would leave a balance of around £35,700 which the group recommended should be carried forward to 2007-08. David Henderson thanked the group for their views and advised that these would be reflected in advice to Ministers on the use of the money.

## **Item 6: Steering Group Report – Funding 2007-08**

6. The Executive had received funding requests for 2007-08 from all of the BID pilot projects, although no provision had been made for additional funding for 2007-08. A range of views were also expressed by members of the Group on these applications. The broad conclusions of the Group (about which, following the meeting, David Henderson e-mailed members to confirm the Executive's understanding) were:

- Bathgate, Falkirk and Inverness should each be awarded the same level of grant funding (to exclude any further demonstration projects). The level might be of the order of £60,000.
- Clackmannanshire should be awarded grant funding up to a level of around £47,500.
- Edinburgh and Glasgow should each be awarded the same basic level of grant funding (of the order of £100,000) with matched funding above that.

7. A number of those on the group felt that the Glasgow and Edinburgh BIDs were not sustainable at their current proposed scale and that additional funding should be predicated on those BID projects being reduced to more manageable levels. It was also suggested that, rather than supporting demonstration-type projects in advance of a ballot, an additional sum (perhaps in the range £20k-£25k) might be made available to each BID following a successful ballot to give them a further and final boost. However, some members were concerned that such a public sector subsidy would not be available to future BIDs and therefore should not be offered. David Henderson thanked the Group again for their views which would also be reflected in advice to Ministers on the size of the budget proposed for 2007-08 and also the amount that might be awarded to each pilot.

## **Any Other Business**

8. No other business was raised.

## **Date of next meeting**

9. It was agreed that the group should meet again in Spring 2007, possibly in Bathgate who had offered (in the course of their presentation) to host a meeting of the Group. The Secretariat would co-ordinate the arrangements and a date in due course.

Scottish Executive  
December 2006