

SWBA BID Achievements 2017–2018

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 and accessibility. As a result:

- SWBA BID is recognised as a formal consultee for local planning, transport and policing matters. We have met Council officials to discuss a range of issues and are represented on the local Police Safer Neighbourhood Panel and on the Mayor of London's Industrial BIDs Group, which has enabled us to put across the views of our businesses to influence decisions made
- We have held regular meetings for our members every two months to provide a forum for discussion and to gather views from businesses
- We have continued to lobby on behalf of our businesses on various 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 have commissioned a survey of parking and traffic flow within the SWBA BID area, the results of which will be used to lobby Merton Council and Transport for London (TfL) to seek improvements to traffic and parking management and pedestrian safety.

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 Year 1:

- An independent audit of security on the estate has been undertaken
- We have been working with Merton Council with a view to upgrading the existing CCTV cameras
- The street lighting on the public roads on the estate has now been upgraded and we are focusing on bringing the remaining street lighting on private roads up to the required standard in consultation with the relevant landlords
- We have employed a part-time Estate Ranger who works 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 drawn up proposals for litter bins to be introduced at various key points and we are pursuing this with the Council.

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 during the first year on deciding priorities and laying the foundations for future activities in this area. This will be given a higher priority from Year 2 onwards but we have so far progressed the following:

- All BID businesses have received free membership of Merton Chamber of Commerce
- We have been talking to potential suppliers about cost saving arrangements for utilities and other services with a view to rolling this out in Year 2 of the BID term

- We are developing our website and will in particular be creating a business directory to include our member companies.

2017-2018 Expenditure

As at 30 June 2018, the BID received £97,882.24 of the anticipated income of £104,500 for the first year of the BID term. Merton Council continues to pursue the outstanding amount due.

Expenditure has been allocated for the purpose of specific projects and work is in hand for these to be implemented, although some of these funds have yet to be spent. However, the BID is committed to ensuring that the levy collected will be utilised in accordance with the stated objectives and that surplus funds will not be built up.

Total expenditure in 2017-2018 was £61,276.17 with £40,915.07 being carried forward for specified projects. The split of actual expenditure (excluding the amount being carried forward) was as follows:

Accessible and Coordinated (16%)	£9,575.00
Enhanced business environment (36%)	£22,139.26
Cost saving, combined purchasing and promotion (30%)	£18,364.51
Admin and levy collection (6.5%)	£4,058.40
Overheads (5%)	£3,070.00
Contingency (6.5%)	£4,069.00