



## What does that stand for again?

We know that taking the first steps towards helping your high streets might seem a daunting prospect, and often, this is because there are so many structures and acronyms that just don't seem to make sense! So below is a jargon free, acronym-busting guide to some of the things you might come across. There are also some links to some really useful resources.

### **BID (Business Improvement District)**

A business improvement district is where a group of local businesses have got together and decided (through a ballot) that they want to work together to improve the local trading environment. They fund their work through a levy that all local businesses pay to the BID. This is usually an extra percentage of business rates.

BIDs up and down the country are doing all sorts of exciting things, but typical activities involve improving the public realm through additional street-cleaning, funding cultural events or focussing on boosting tourism.

If you are already part of a BID, why not think about getting more involved in the work and the decision-making process. The [2014 BID survey](#) (PDF 2.4MB) contains some good examples of the work BIDs are doing which you might want to use for inspiration.

If you aren't already a member, why not think about setting one up! The [BID Loan Fund](#) offers financial support to businesses setting up a BID. You can find out more about how to set up a BID from the [Association of Town and City Management](#) (ATCM) and British Bids.

### **Town Team**

Town Teams are groups of local residents, businesses and other interested parties, such as local authorities, that are focused on working together to support their high streets. Town teams up and down the country are working together to run events, set up pop up shops, brightening up their high streets and doing all sorts of initiatives to make their high streets the type of place you want to be.

There are over 330 town teams across the country. If you want to find out if there is one near you, look in the list we've provided in this toolkit giving the names of all the town teams and contact details so you can get in touch.

There are also loads of tools on the [ATCM website](#) which will help you and your town team out. Have a look!



### **Traders Association**

A Traders Association is a group of local retailers who have got together to form a group, so that businesses in their area can speak with one voice. Often retailers can get together to build these partnerships informally, but a Traders Association is a more formal entity that has a bank account and things like a constitution. Johnny Hayes, from Bishy Road in York, has shared his experiences of setting up a Traders' Association in this toolkit. The ATCM's guide, [A firm basis](#), also provides lots of information about legal structures and getting set up.

### **Town Centre Manager**

A Town Centre Manager is somebody who is employed to come up with ways to improve the entire high street or town centre. This involves working with their local businesses and coming up with ways to make the town centre better, so they might think about improving signage or looking at parking.

They are often employed by local authorities, but also sometimes by BIDs or Town Teams, or other public/private partnerships. You should know your town centre manager – if you don't, ask your neighbours. If you don't have one, talk to your local council, BID or Town Team.

### **ATCM**

The Association of Town and City Management is a not-for-profit membership body that supports town centre management. They also do lots of work to support Town Teams and BIDs. Their [website](#) is full of useful information. Their [Firm Foundations](#) resource is also a really helpful guide.

### **British BIDs**

British BIDs is an organisation set up to support Business Improvement Districts. Their [website](#) is another great source of information.

### **Healthy High Streets**

The [Healthy High Streets campaign](#) runs in 100 high streets around the country. Four big companies (Boots, the Co-operative Group, Marks & Spencer and Santander) are working with town teams to help revive struggling high streets. It's a great example of how big business can get really involved at the local level.

### **Local plans**

Local planning authorities (so usually your district or borough council) must produce a local plan which sets out the rules for how the area will develop over time. The Local Plan, along with any neighbourhood plan (see below), forms the overall development strategy for the local area.

The plans can include all sorts of information, such as how they will improve transport or build houses in your area to trigger growth. It's worth looking at your local plan to understand the future plans for your local town and high street and how it might affect you.

### Community Rights

Community Rights are a set of legal powers that give you a greater say over how your community develops. They can help you to save local shops, pubs, libraries, parks and football grounds. You can decide what is built and how the area should develop. Groups of people have the chance to deliver local services and develop them into community enterprises. For more information, look at the [My Community Rights](#) website.

### Neighbourhood plan

One important Community Right is the ability for local people to produce a [neighbourhood plan](#). A neighbourhood plan is a plan drawn up by local people which gives communities more of a say in the development of their local area. These plans could set out where you would like new shops or homes to be built or how planning permission would be given to new buildings.

There is a lot of support to hand on the [My Community Rights](#) if you want to think about producing a neighborhood plan.



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