

**BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS – RESPONSE TO
CONSULTATION ON DRAFT GUIDANCE**

1. **Do you have examples of good practice that should be incorporated into the Guide?**

Comment

The Council has been involved in several projects that reflect the objectives of the BID concept. The Safer Runnymede Initiative and the Yellow Bus Project are schemes that reflect close co-operation between the local business community and the Local Authority. It is recommended that details of the schemes be forwarded to the ODPM.

2. **Does the Guidance give a useful, clear and understandable account of the background policy on BIDs?**

Comment

The existing guidance covers in detail all aspects of the mechanism for identifying, introducing, managing and monitoring BIDs. In a practical sense this is a live issue for the Council in that sufficient information has been provided to enable the Borough, in co-operation with the Runnymede Business Partnership (a partnership of local businesses, schools, colleges, Surrey Police and Local Authorities), to undertake initial work on a BID project to support the Yellow Bus Scheme.

General Comment

- 3.4 ***There are several questions raised regarding the technical, procedural, administrative and financial issues associated with the BID process. Whilst the guidance deals thoroughly with these specific areas it will probably only be 'tested' when an actual scheme is being developed. It is recommended that the BID guidance is subject to a review mechanism a year or so after the enactment of the Local Government Bill to consider operating practices.***