



A LOCAL FOCUS WITH A NATIONAL IMPACT



SCOTLAND'S IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS AND OUR VISION FOR SCOTLAND

Scotland's Improvement Districts is the national centre for Improvement Districts in Scotland. Our goal is to support Improvement Districts across Scotland to deliver inclusive local economic growth by providing national strategic guidance, delivering training and practical support and building strong national partnerships.

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Improvement Districts, the next generation of Business Improvement Districts (BIDs), seek to provide a vehicle for local businesses to work together with other public and private sector partners to improve local economies and, by extension, local communities in a variety of contexts. At their heart, they are the realisation of a meaningful corporate-community-public partnership working collaboratively to deliver better local economic and social outcomes.

Successful and thriving Improvement Districts working together across the whole of Scotland, supported by Scotland's Improvement Districts, are a vital delivery mechanism for a dynamic, prosperous Scotland.

IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS - A NEW GENERATION

Improvement Districts, formerly Business Improvement Districts, were launched in 2006. With approximately forty in existence across Scotland, they have a strong track record of delivery over the last ten years.

A BID allows non-domestic ratepayers to improve their commercial potential by funding additional management, projects and services within a clearly defined geographical area of a town, city or commercial district. Non-domestic ratepayers vote to invest collectively in local improvements, in addition to those delivered by statutory authorities.

They are often, although not exclusively, a partnership arrangement through which the local business community and the statutory authorities can take forward projects that will benefit the local economy.

Following a period of strategic review, the new generation model, under the umbrella of Scotland's Improvement Districts, was launched in Autumn 2018 to better reflect the changing economic landscape in Scotland and breathe innovation and fresh thinking into the project.

The strength of the Improvement Districts proposition is in its simplicity. By pooling and sharing resources, local businesses, working with other private, public and third sector partners, take a leading role in improving local economic conditions by delivering an agreed package of investment and initiatives over and beyond that delivered by local and national government.

The new model is a more innovative, flexible and holistic approach, which leverages greater corporate-community-public partnerships, to deliver the ambitions of local businesses and communities.

New innovation and flexibility will encourage more diversity within the Improvement Districts project with the development of Maritime, Food and Drink, Tourism, Cultural, Innovation, Energy and Community Improvement Districts to sit alongside our traditional City Town Centre Improvement Districts.

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Improvement Districts are a crucial delivery vehicle for a more prosperous, fairer Scotland - the core tenet of *Scotland's Economic Strategy*.

Local businesses and people are best placed to understand the needs of their local economy. Improvement Districts provide the forum to develop and deliver an agreed action plan that addresses those needs by bringing people and business together in a new corporate-community-public partnership.

By working collaboratively to deliver better local economic and social outcomes through a focus on towns and cities across the country, Improvement Districts are an important driver for the wider Scottish economy.

ABOUT SCOTLAND'S IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS

Scotland's Improvement Districts, part of the Scotland's Towns Partnership project, launched alongside the new generation of Improvement Districts in Autumn 2018.

Supported by the Scottish Government, the organisation's role is to foster the development and continued success of Improvement Districts across Scotland by:

- Developing a national Improvement Districts strategy which sets the strategic direction for Improvement Districts across Scotland;
- Championing the success of Improvement Districts and communicating their impact with Government and other national public and private sector stakeholders;
- Building new and innovative partnerships at a national level;
- Providing high quality support, training and funding opportunities for Improvement Districts; and,
- Offering advice and support on the legislative framework to new and existing Improvement Districts.

Improvement Districts provide the forum to develop and deliver an agreed action plan that addresses those needs by bringing people and business together in a new corporate - community - public partnership.

