

So, who should be a member?

The question of who qualifies as a member of a business association is an easy one to ask, but the answer can be broad and complex.



In the first instance, the intent of the BID Policy is to encourage inclusiveness.

Members are the backbone of any business association and are, therefore, vital contributors to a successful BID programme. The intent is to include and encourage business association membership and not exclude or make it difficult for business owners to become members.

Finding the answer to the membership question will require a look at both the BID Policy and the association's constitution, and remember, the constitution cannot be inconsistent with the BID Policy.

The BID Policy talks about BID programme membership starting with 'those that pay the BID targeted rate directly or indirectly'. It then moves to business association membership within the association's constitution and the next qualification being:

- Owns one or more commercially rated properties within the BID programme targeted rate area; or
- Trades within one or more properties within the BID targeted rate area.

The constitution will provide additional qualifications to consider and include the need for members to complete an application form. Under the Incorporated Societies Act, all members of an association must complete a form acknowledging they agree to become a member of the association. There can be no automatic membership.

Supporting the association constitution, the BID Policy offers guidance on what other criteria might be applied to determine membership, all of which is to help guide you to a decision. See our BID Policy ([Part 2, Operating Standards, page 10](#))

However, as we know, a business can take many forms: we have consultants, contractors, internet based, mobile and service-based businesses, all of which may or may not operate/trade from a fixed location. So, how do we identify if these businesses are entitled to become a member of the business association?

Answer: give the BID programme team a call. We've taken a close look at many situations and we're happy to share and talk through the many possibilities that can come up.

And just as a reminder: All BID affiliates (pays a BID targeted rate directly or indirectly), regardless of being a signed member of the business association, are entitled to receive all information relating to that BID programme.