### **British BIDs**

- British "BIDs"
- Differences between US & British BIDs
- Context (Historic, Political, Economic)
- BID Legislation
- Coventry's Example
- Closing Remarks



### TCMs to Pilot BIDs

- In Britain Town Centre Management organizations or TCMs are locally funded organizations that typically provide clean and safe activities for the a town's city center
- Most TCM's are funded almost entirely from the local government
- The Benefit of BIDs in Britain:
  - "BIDs provide sustainable funding for an agreed period of time. There is no "freeloading" those who vote have a voice, pay the levy and will benefit. It is a transparent, clear and democratic process. It allows self-management and self-funding with no red tape or bureaucracy. It provides practical services to ensure a clean, safe, well marketed, attractive environment. In the long term it will deliver significant economic and quality of life benefits." Association of Town Centre Management (ATCM)

### **British Pilot BIDs**

- Current legislation will allow for the creation of Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) in select British Cities and Towns (2004)
- 22 British TCMs have been chosen to be part of the PILOT BID program
- An additional 5 are part of a
- London based "Circle Initiative" to begin the BID process.
- Funding Differences:

Assessments:

owner based in US vs. tenant based in Britain

 Because they are tenant based, retailer concerns are their first priority

# Coventry, Warwickshire

#### **Local Information**

- Location: 1 ½ hours northwest of London
- Population: 300,000 people
- Experienced steady decline since the 1960s due to gradual deindustrialization
- A traditional manufacturing city which grew on the back of Jaguar and other automobile related industries
- Efforts underway to diversify the city's employment base – high tech initiative
- PHOENIX INITIATIVE:
  - Effort to rebuild the built environment of the city centre, emphasizing streetscape and pedestrian orientation
- Currently engaged in the
  - largest physical revitalization campaign since the immediate post-war years

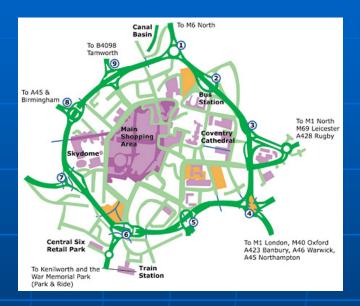
In April 2002, CV One was created when Coventry
 City Centre and Coventry & Warwickshire Promotions
 (CWP) merged.

### City Centre Company

- City Centre Management
- Parking Management
- Environmental Maintenance
- Events
- City Centre Marketing
- Commercial Development

- Destination Marketing
- Tourism and Tourist Information
- Sales
- Events Programming
  - 18 events including a jazz festival and a Godiva festival
- Marketing
- Regional and National Image

- Independent private company
- Public / private sector board
- Not for profit
- £7.7 million operating budget
  - City Council £5.7 million
  - Commercial income £1.0 million
  - Grant Funding £0.8 million
  - Sponsorship/Other £0.13 million
- Operational role
  - 80+ staff



### Six Strategic Priorities

- Understanding and addressing customer needs
- Achieving excellence through people
- Changing PERCEPTIONS
- Changing REALITY
- Generating sustainable funding
- Generating third party investment

### **Operational Responsibilities**

- Customer service
  - Car parks
  - City centre
- Operations support
  - Cleansing & maintenance
  - CCTV monitoring
  - Crime Reduction Package
- Marketing & Promotions
- Commercial Development
- Project Liaison

### Retail Membership (2002)

Level	Total Retail Establishment s	Member Retail Establishment s	Membership Cost per Year	% of Total Retail Establishment s that are CV One Members
F	3	3	£ 6,700	100%
E	9	9	£2,500	100%
D	17	13	£1,000	76%
С	43	19	£540	44%
A&B	143	55	£333	39%
TOTAL	215	99		46%

## Why Coventry's existing format is perfect for a transition to a BID

- CV One's autonomy is unique among British Pilot BIDs
- Value of membership attracts members
- Large membership percentage existing
- All large retailers are members
- In general there is a 'disincentive' not to belong to CV One – overcoming "Free Rider" problem
- Benefits are specific to members
  - Some of the services that CV One provides cannot be enjoyed by non-members (i.e. security provisions).
    Security provision through a CCTV system is the most important membership incentive.
- The pricing has been calculated to maximize the greatest number of members ~50%, predicting a successful BID vote in the future.
- Government support has been crucial.
- CV One is a not-for-profit, unlike other public TCMs.
- The company is already delivering benefits to stakeholders of the type that a BID will need to deliver

# Lighting Fixtures, right?





# Right?



# Security and CCTV

- 400 Camera's stationed throughout city centre
- 24 hour monitoring
- Monitoring station has radio connection with member organizations
- CCTV viewers alert member organizations and police if suspicious activities are viewed
- Members have to sign
- Crime is mostly theft or drug related in Coventry
- Not much violent crime



# Security Chain of Command

#### **POLICE** – overall accountability

• Public servants

#### **Evening Ambassadors**

- Early evening to morning
- Eyes and Ears
- Customer Service

#### **Customer Service**

• Uniformed CV One Employees

#### Street Crime Warden (Nationally Funded)

- "Robust Role" according to CV One
  - Will reduce the need for regular police
- Ability to hold suspect for up to 30 minutes

# **Concluding Thoughts**

- British Pilot BIDs fund most of their operations from the public sector
- The tenant assessment provides for a different set of objectives and responsibilities
- Primary impetus for forming a BID is escaping bureaucracy and achieving sustainable funding and administration
- Coventry is the model for BIDs in Britain
- Most Pilot-BIDs are not private non-profit companies like CV One