

BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (BID) - ANNUAL UPDATE

**REPORT OF THE HEAD OF MEMBER SERVICES AND COMMUNITY
PARTNERSHIPS**

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide the Committee with a progress report on the work of the Sunderland Business Improvement District (BID).

2. Background

- 2.1 In 2013/14 the Skills, Economy and Regeneration Scrutiny Panel conducted a review around the Diversification of the Local Economy. The review examined the approach and progress being made in diversifying the local economy focusing on advanced manufacturing, software and the creative industries sector.
- 2.2 As a result of the review a number of recommendations were formulated and agreed by Cabinet. One of the recommendations was that the BID should be invited to the Scrutiny Committee on an annual basis in order to provide an update on their work.
- 2.3 Sharon Appleby (Head of Business Operations) will be in attendance to provide an overview of the work of the BID, providing information on what has been delivered so far, the key projects for 2019/20 and the opportunities that exist to the BID and the city as a whole. She has also invited representatives from local businesses to attend.

3 Current Position

- 3.1 A Business Improvement District is a defined area in which a levy is charged on business rate payers for the development of projects in the local area. Businesses that are subject to the levy, vote in a ballot to determine if the scheme should go ahead. The BID must hold a new ballot if it is to continue for another five year period. The local authority manages the ballot process and also the collection of the levy on behalf of the BID.
- 3.2 The Sunderland Business Improvement District (BID) was established in April 2014 for a five year period to March 2019. In November 2018, it was announced that local businesses had voted to renew the BID project for a further five years. The outcome of the renewal vote was reported to the Committee in January 2019.

3. Conclusion

- 3.1 The information is presented to the Committee to show the progress of Sunderland BID.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 The Committee is recommended to consider and comment on the progress of Sunderland BID.

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