

BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (BID) - UPDATE

**REPORT OF THE HEAD OF MEMBER SUPPORT 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 On 17 July 2018, Sharon Appleby (Head of Business Operations) attended the Committee to provide an overview of the BID in its fourth year of operation. In view of the impending vote for the renewal of the BID it was suggested that the BID be invited to a future meeting to report on the outcome of the vote.

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.
- 3.2 The Sunderland Business Improvement District (BID) was established in April 2014 for a five year period to March 2019. The BID must hold a new ballot if 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. In November 2018, it was announced that local businesses had voted to renew the BID project for a further five years.
- 3.3 Sharon Appleby (Head of Business Operations) will be in attendance to discuss the result of the ballot and to provide further information about priorities for the future.

- 3.4 A copy of the Sunderland BID renewal plan for 2019-2024 is attached for information.

4. Recommendation

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

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