

BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (BID) - ANNUAL UPDATE

REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY AND MEMBERS' SUPPORT CO-ORDINATOR

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.

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.
- 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.
- 3.3 Sharon Appleby (Chief Executive) will be in attendance to provide a presentation on the work of the BID, providing information on what has been delivered so far, the key projects for 2021/22 and the impact of Covid 19.

4. Recommendation

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

Contact Officer: Jim Diamond
Scrutiny Officer
T: 0779 5353681
E: james.diamond@sunderland.gov.uk