
Staffing Matters and Urgency Committee

15 February 2016

Report of the Director of Communities and Neighbourhoods

Portfolio of the Executive Member Economic Development and Community Engagement

City of York Council Member representation on the Business Improvement District Board

Summary

1. In November 2015, 76% of York businesses voted in favour of a new Business Improvement District (BID) for the City.
2. The BID will realise over £800,000 in BID levies to be invested in the City Centre.
3. Decisions on allocation of this investment will be taken by the business-led BID Board and will focus on areas such as improving the cleanliness of the City Centre, tackling anti-social behaviour and providing business and procurement support for City Centre businesses.
4. This Board has two places allocated to City of York Council. This paper makes recommendations as to whom those places should be apportioned.

Background

5. In previous associated papers, the issue of Council representation on aforementioned BID Board has been discussed, along with the suggestion that the Council would be represented by Councillors Steward and Aspden.
6. Members have already lent their verbal and financial support to this initiative in two previous reports, and the Council's commitment to their 1% share of the levy has also been expressed in the agenda item 11 on the Executive meeting on 11 February where the Council's Financial Strategy 2016 – 2021 will be discussed.

Consultation

7. Discussions with Members have already taken place around this recommendation in previous associated reports, as referenced throughout this document.

Analysis

8. The Council must appoint two officers or Members to the BID Board to ensure that our views and opinions are represented, as well as to fully participate in, and show support for, this initiative.
9. An earlier draft of this paper was presented to Economic Development and Transport Policy and Scrutiny on the 19th January, where Members of the Committee were broadly supportive of this paper and its recommendations to nominate and appoint Cllr Steward and Aspden.
10. Members of the Scrutiny Committee requested that the Executive look at how we can ensure that there are strong links between the Business Improvement District and elected Members from City Centre wards (Guildhall, Micklegate and Fishergate). We will work with those Members to ensure that there is a strong relationship between local ward Members and the BID.

Council Plan

11. The work to establish the Business Improvement District is in line with the Council Plan objectives to create a prosperous city for all where local businesses can thrive.

Implications

Financial:

All financial risks have been set out in the two previous reports to Executive in July 2015 and January 2016. There are no additional financial risks to Member representation of the Council on the BID Board

Legal:

The Council's legal protections are set out within a draft Memorandum of Understanding. There are no additional legal risks to Member representation of the Council on the BID Board

Crime and Disorder: Not applicable.

Information Technology: Not applicable.

Property: Not applicable.

Other: Not applicable.

Risk Management

12. There are no known risks attached to this recommendation

Recommendations

13. Members are asked to consider

That the two available BID Board posts set aside for City of York Council representation be filled by Councillors Chris Steward and Keith Aspden as leaders of the two parties in the current authority administration.

Reason:

To ensure balanced representation for the Council on the BID Board and ongoing visible support for local businesses.

Contact Details

Author:

Phil Witcherley
Group Manager,
Policy and Strategy Team
(Economy and Place)
Office of the Chief
Executive
Tel No.
553343

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:

Sally Burns
Director, Communities and
Neighbourhoods

**Report
Approved**



**4 February
2016**

Wards Affected: Fishergate, Guildhall and Micklegate

Background Papers:

Papers to Executive: Report of the Director of Communities and Neighbourhoods. July 30th 2015 and January 28th 2016
Business Improvement District for York City Centre

Annexes - None