



Subject:	Belfast One BID – request for presentation
Date:	14 January 2026
Reporting Officer:	Keith Forster, Director of Economic Development
Contact Officer:	Lisa Toland, Senior Manager, Economy

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

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No

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Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.

Insert number

1. Information relating to any individual
2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)
4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter
5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained
6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction
7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

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☐
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☐

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

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No

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1.0	Purpose of Report / Summary of Main Issues
1.1	<p>The purpose of the report is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update members on the pending ballot for the third term of the Belfast One BID (Business Improvement District) • Request that members agree to receive a presentation from the BID at the February meeting of this Committee in order to enable officers to submit the Council votes in the ballot ahead of the 5 March 2026 deadline.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>Members are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the update on the pending ballot for the third term of the Belfast One BID (Business Improvement District) • Agree to receive a presentation from the BID at the February meeting of this Committee in order to enable officers to submit the Council votes in the ballot ahead of the 5 March 2026 deadline.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p>Members will be aware that there are three Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) in Belfast city centre: BID One which covers the main retail core and runs from the City Hall down to the junction of Royal Avenue and North Street; Linen Quarter which covers the office district to the north the City Hall including the new Transport Hub and Destination CQ which covers the Cathedral Quarter including the Ulster University campus.</p>
3.2	<p>A BID is a defined district where organisations collectively invest in projects, services and events that will benefit that area. BID One is an independent, not-for-profit company that works on behalf of its levy payers to support, develop and promote Belfast city centre. It focuses on delivering programmes that enhance safety, cleanliness, business support and the overall vibrancy of the area.</p>
3.3	<p>Under government legislation, all BIDs operate on a five-year term. At the end of each term, a ballot must take place in order for the BID to continue its work. BID One is the longest standing of the three BIDs and began operations in April 2016. The ballot for the third term of BID One will open on 22 January 2026 and all votes must be submitted by 5 March 2026.</p>

3.4	Belfast City Council has a number of properties within the BID One boundary including City Hall and 2 Royal Avenue. The BID One area contains around 700 units that are eligible for votes. Each property must pay an annual mandatory BID levy – depending on the NAV (Net Annual Value) of the property. Belfast City Council is responsible (by legislation) for issuing the levy bills (the cost of this service is covered by the BID).
3.5	<p>In order for the proposal to be successful at ballot, the result will need to meet, as a minimum, three independent criteria, namely:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There must be more yes votes than no votes (volume) 2. Total rateable value of yes votes must exceed total rateable value of no votes (value) 3. The turnout of ballot papers returned must be no less than 25% of the eligible rate payers entitled to vote in the ballot <i>and</i> total no less than 25% of the eligible rateable value.
3.6	<p>BID One works closely with the council on a range of issues related to safety, cleanliness and vibrancy in the city centre. The team and the Board are also represented on a number of city centre forums and working groups and, given their mandate, represent a strong conduit for engagement with city centre businesses operating in this geographical area. They have produced a business plan for the five year term and this proposes focusing resources on four main areas of work, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting Belfast city centre • Enhancing the visitor experience • Supporting local businesses • Shaping a better city centre.
3.7	The draft business plan notes that the BID is likely to generate just slightly over £1million annually through its levy collection and it will use these resources to deliver projects on behalf of levy payers within these agreed priority areas for action. Details of planned activities will be shared by the team at the upcoming meeting.
4.0	Financial Implications
	Belfast City Council will be liable for levy payments relating to its properties and assets located within the BID One boundary.
5.0	Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment

	No specific equality or good relations implications. The Belfast One designated boundary has been approved by DfC. Visitor insights demonstrate that the city centre is accessed by visitors from all parts of Northern Ireland and beyond.
6.0	Appendices
	None.