



<b>Subject:</b>	Belfast One BID – ballot update
<b>Date:</b>	11 February 2026
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Keith Forster, Director of Economic Development
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Lisa Toland, Senior Manager, Economy

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</b>	
Insert number <input type="checkbox"/>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Information relating to any individual</li><li>2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual</li><li>3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)</li><li>4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter</li><li>5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained</li><li>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</li><li>7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime</li></ol>	
<b>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</b>	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Call-in</b>	
<b>Is the decision eligible for Call-in?</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report / Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	<p>The purpose of the report is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduce the plans for the BID One ballot which closes on 5 March 2026</li> <li>• Secure Committee approval to submit council votes for properties located within the BID One boundary.</li> </ul>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	<p>Members are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Note the update on the ballot for the third term of the Belfast One BID (Business Improvement District)</li> <li>• Agree to return yes votes for the Council properties located within the boundary.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
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>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 opened on 22 January 2026 and all votes must be submitted by 5 March 2026.</p>
3.3	<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"> <li>1. There must be more yes votes than no votes (volume)</li> <li>2. Total rateable value of yes votes must exceed total rateable value of no votes (value)</li> <li>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.</li> </ol>
3.4	<p>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</p>

	<p>property. The council has seven properties within the BID One boundary including City Hall, 2 Royal Avenue and the former Digital Services building in Gloucester Street. The combined levy total for all properties is around £23,000 annually. The expected levy total for all properties (assuming 100% payment) is around £1million annually. This expenditure will be allocated in line with business plan priorities.</p>
3.5	<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. Their five year business plan for the upcoming term proposes focusing resources on four main areas of work, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting Belfast city centre</li> <li>• Enhancing the visitor experience</li> <li>• Supporting local businesses</li> <li>• Shaping a better city centre.</li> </ul>
3.6	<p>Given the ongoing collaboration, the planned engagement and the direct contribution of the BID (both financially and in terms of staff resources) towards shared priorities with the council, it is recommended that members support a yes vote on behalf of the council in the current ballot process.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Financial Implications</b>
	<p>Belfast City Council will be liable for levy payments relating to its properties and assets located within the BID One boundary. These levies are already included in recurring Council budgets.</p>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment</b>
	<p>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.</p>
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
	<p>None.</p>