



<b>Subject:</b>	Belfast One Business Improvement District (BID) presentation
<b>Date:</b>	10 February 2021
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Greer, Director of Economic Development
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Lisa Toland, Senior Manager, Economy

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	The purpose of the report is to introduce the presentation by the Belfast One Business Improvement District (BID).
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Note the presentation from the Belfast One Business Improvement District (BID)</li><li>• Agree to use the council ballots to support a Yes vote for a new five year mandate for the BID.</li></ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	Members will be aware that Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) were established for the first time in Northern Ireland in 2015. There are three BIDs in Belfast:

- Belfast One covers the retail core from City Hall to Royal Avenue, bounded by Victoria Street and Millfield
- Destination CQ covers the Cathedral Quarter, encompassing the area from High Street to Great George's Street, bounded by Donegall Quay and Millfield
- Linen Quarter BID covers the area from City Hall to Dublin Road, bounded by Joy Street and Durham Street.

3.2 Businesses located within the BID area agree a five year business plan and pay a mandatory annual contribution to the delivery of the business plan, based on the NAV of their property. BID services must demonstrate that they are additional to core services that are delivered by other statutory partners (such as the Council, Department for Communities, Department for Infrastructure etc.). Belfast One was the first BID to be established in Belfast in April 2016 and, in line with the legislation governing BIDs, it must now go to a re-ballot if it is to be extended for another five years.

3.3 The ballot will open on 4 February 2021 (note change of date from previous Committee paper) and close on 25 March 2021. The decision will be known on 26 March. All levy payers will be entitled to vote in the ballot. Belfast City Council has three properties in the BID One area and will therefore be entitled to a vote for each of the properties.

3.4 Members will be aware that all three BIDs have been playing an active role in the animation and management of the city centre since their establishment a number of years ago. As the largest of the three BIDs, Belfast One has made an investment of almost £5million over the last five years. Key areas of focus include the establishment of an additional clean team – working alongside council resources – as well as a programme of activities, events and animation and the management of the popular Belfast Gift Card (now expanded to cover all three BID areas). The business plan for the coming five years – to be set out at this meeting – confirms a continued commitment to making the city centre a cleaner, safer, more attractive and vibrant place to visit and work.

3.5 All levy payers will now have received their ballots, which must be returned in advance of 25 March 2021. In order to secure a new mandate, the BID requires that at least 25% of those eligible to vote do so. Of those that vote, at least 50% need to cast a “yes” vote if the BID is to continue its work for a further five years. It is proposed that officers return the three ballots to confirm their support for the BID with a “yes” vote.

3.6	<p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></p> <p>The current levy payable by the council to Belfast One is in the region of £12,000 on an annual basis. This has been accounted for in existing estimates.</p>
3.7	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>No specific equality implications. BIDs have been established in a number of locations across Northern Ireland.</p>
4.0	<p><b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b></p>
	<p>None</p>