

Hambleton District Council

Report To: Cabinet

Date: 7 September 2021

Subject: **Northallerton Business Improvement District**

Portfolio Holder: Economic Development and Finance
Councillor P R Wilkinson

Wards Affected: All Wards

1.0 Purpose and Background

- 1.1 Northallerton Business Improvement District (the BID) is approaching the end of its first five year term which comes to an end on 31 March 2022. Accordingly, the BID has notified the Secretary of State of its intention to hold a ballot to secure a further five year term. This report seeks approval of the BID proposal and authority for the Chief Executive to vote Yes in the forthcoming ballot.
- 1.2 BID's are governed by relevant legislation, in particular the Business Improvement District Regulations 2004 (as amended). These Regulations allow local businesses to set up a BID provided that (1) over 50% of ratepayers in the designated BID area that vote, vote in favour; and (2) the "Yes" votes represent more than 50% of the rateable value of the businesses that vote. The vote for a BID is carried out by secret postal ballot which is organised by the Council. Eligibility to vote is based on one vote per eligible hereditament located within the defined BID area.
- 1.3 The BID proposal is attached as Annex A. It outlines the details of the BID which in operational terms are almost identical to the first proposal. If successful a levy will be collected from all hereditaments with a rateable value of £10,000 or above. The levy will be 1.5% of the rateable value generating the BID an annual income of £161k per annum to invest in support of the businesses and the town centre. The BID proposals do not represent any conflict with Council policies.
- 1.4 The BID area has been modified slightly to include the Forum, at their request. Following discussions with the Mart the BID Board agreed to include the Auction Mart Car Park but exclude the main mart site. The revised boundary results in an extra Council property, the Forum Car Park, becoming a part of the BID area. Two other hereditaments for which the Council is responsible are included which are the Applegarth Car Park and Northallerton Market.
- 1.5 The Council therefore has a say in whether or not the BID should be approved and this equates to three votes for the three respective hereditaments. Postal ballot votes are to be sent out to those eligible to vote on 26 October 2021 for return by no later than 5.00pm on 25 November 2021.

2.0 Link to Council Priorities

- 2.1 This renewal of the BID supports the Council's priority of driving economic vitality; specifically supporting the development of Northallerton as a Vibrant Market Town and supporting the short term economic recovery and long term future sustainability of the High Street.
- 2.2 In addition the project supports the Councils Economic Response and Recovery Plan by:
- empowering a market town to improve their vibrancy through applying local knowledge and resources.
 - Increasing the vibrancy of Northallerton by providing support to the BID renewal process.

3.0 Risk Assessment

- 3.1 Risk in not approving the recommendations:

Risk	Implication	Prob	Imp.	Total	Preventative Action	Net Prob	Net Impact	Net total
Reputational Risk to the Council	Council may be criticised as an opportunity to raise investment to support businesses in missed	4	4	16	Approve the recommendations	2	3	6
Response and Recovery Plan not delivered	The council will not be providing its stated support to the BID renewal process or deliver on measures in the plan.	4	4	16	Approve the recommendations	2	3	6

- 3.2 There are no significant risks associated with agreeing with the recommendations.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 The tables below set out the current rateable value for the Council's respective business premises and the amounts of a 1.5% levy per annum.

Rateable Values used in 2020/21	RV	1.5% Levy
Applegarth Car Park	£100,000	£1,500
Forum Car Park	£23,000	£345
Northallerton Market (Market Tolls)	£35,000	£525
Total	£158,000	£2,370

5.0 Legal Implications

5.1 The District Council is legally required to carry out the BID ballot on behalf of the BID

6.0 Equality/Diversity Issues

6.1 Equality and diversity issues have been considered however there are no issues associated with this report.

7.0 Recommendation

7.1 That Cabinet:-

- (1) approves the BID proposal; and
- (2) authorises the Chief Executive to vote “Yes” in the BID ballot.

Mick Jewitt
Deputy Chief Executive

Background papers: Northallerton BID Proposal

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