



RECORD OF DELEGATED OFFICER DECISION

SUBJECT:

BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS (BIDS) IN RHONDDA CYNON TAF TOWN CENTRES

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

The purpose of the report is to advise of the current position in respect of the potential Business Improvement District for Pontypridd and the need to ascertain the way forward in respect of the forthcoming ballot as detailed within the report.

In accordance with the Council's Scheme of Delegation this report has been prepared to advise the intended officer decision of the Chief Executive.

DELEGATED DECISION (Date):

- 1) To note the information contained within the report;
- 2) To give delegated authority to the Secretary to the Cabinet to exercise Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council's votes in advance of the closure of the Ballot on the 25th February 2016.


Chief Officer Signature

Chris Bradshaw
Print Name

28/1/16
Date

The decision is taken in accordance with Section 15 of the Local Government Act, 2000 (Executive Functions) and in the terms set out in Section 5 of Part 3 of the Council's Constitution



28/1/16

CONSULTEE CABINET MEMBER SIGNATURE

DATE

OFFICER CONSULTEE SIGNATURE

DATE

Directorate:	Chief Executive.
Contact Name:	Jane Cook
Designation:	Director, Regeneration & Planning.
Tel.No.	



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO ACCOMPANY A DECISION OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

28TH JANUARY 2016.

BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS (BIDS) IN RHONDDA CYNON TAF TOWN CENTRES

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR, REGENERATION & PLANNING IN DISCUSSIONS WITH CLLR R BEVAN

AUTHOR(s): Emma Wilkins, Cabinet Business Officer.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to advise of the current position in respect of the potential Business Improvement District for Pontypridd and the need to ascertain the way forward in respect of the forthcoming ballot as detailed within the report.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommended:

- 2.1 To note the information contained within the report;
- 2.2 To give delegated authority to the Secretary to the Cabinet to exercise Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council's votes in advance of the closure of the Ballot on the 25th February 2016.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The need to advise of the ballot process commencing on the 28th January 2016 in respect of the Business Improvement District for Pontypridd; and
- 3.2 The need to give delegated authority to a designated individual in order to exercise those votes in accordance with Cabinet's determination.

4. BACKGROUND



- 4.1 Following consideration of a report to Cabinet on the 18th November 2013, in respect of the potential establishment of Business Improvement Districts in Rhondda Cynon Taf town centres, it was resolved that Pontypridd Town be nominated as a pilot town centre for a BID Development.
- 4.2 A funding application to progress this bid was subsequently made to Welsh Government and Pontypridd became one of only 9 towns in Wales to successfully receive funding [to support the establishment of the Pontypridd BID].
- 4.3 A BID is a defined area within which businesses pay a levy in order to fund projects within the BID boundary.
- 4.4 As part of the scheme, businesses within the district must vote in a ballot on whether to accept or reject the establishment of the BID . If the ballot is successful (i.e. the majority of the votes cast are in favour of establishing the BID), then all businesses within the BID footprint would be required to contribute to the levy, which is calculated as a percentage (between 1%-2%) of the Rateable Value of the relevant premises from which the business operates.
- 4.5 The principle of the BID is that the levy delivers a sustainable financial model to a defined area of a town, and which can therefore provide services above and beyond those provided by statutory authorities. The BID mechanism has been recognised as being successful in bringing local businesses and other stakeholders together with the aim of improving their trading environment and enhancing their profitability.

5 **BALLOT**

- 5.1 Following on from the original decision taken by the Cabinet in November 2013 and following receipt of funding by Welsh government the scheme is currently at the 'Ballot' stage.
- 5.2. Arrangements have been made for the Ballot for the Pontypridd BID to commence on the 28th January 2016 and close on the 25th February, 2016. The Ballot will be administered by Rhondda Cynon Taf Council's Electoral Services. Notices of the Ballot were circulated on the 14th January 2016.
- 5.3 This Council will receive 13 ballot papers in the Ballot due to the Council having 13 separate paying premises within the Pontypridd BID area (these premises include offices and car parks).
- 5.4 It will be necessary to give delegated authority to an individual to cast the 13 votes, on behalf of the Council.



- 5.6 It is proposed that the Secretary to the Cabinet, Mr C Hanagan, be identified as the proper officer to undertake this role.

6 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no equality or diversity implications associated with this report.

7 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 None required.

8 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 8.1 As previously reported to Cabinet the Council would be liable for under approximately £7,000 per year, which would be the sum total of the levy for each hereditament (1.25% of the rateable value of their properties).

- 8.2 Collection of the Pontypridd BID levy would be administered by the Council's finance section in the same way as Non Domestic Rates. The service would be covered by an SLA between the Pontypridd BID company and the Council. This SLA would detail the levy collection responsibilities and the costs the Council would expect to recoup for the required administration work

9 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 9.1 There are no specific legal implications associated with the report. The Ballot will be administered by the Council's Electoral Services department.

10 LINKS TO THE COUNCILS CORPORATE PLAN / OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES/ SIP.

- 10.1 The Business improvement Districts link to the Single Integrated plan in respect of Prosperity – Businesses are supported to thrive and grow.

11 CONCLUSION

- 11.1 Following the Cabinet decision in November 2013 and receipt of Welsh Government funding, to support Pontypridd as a pilot town for a BID



development, a decision is now needed to to give delegated authority to an officer to cast those votes in the Ballot.

Other Information:-

Contact Officer

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