

8 September 2015

Agenda Item: 11

REPORT OF THE GROUP MANAGER, CORPORATE STRATEGY

RENEWAL OF BEESTON BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (BID) FOR 2016-2020

Purpose of the Report

1. This report invites Economic Development Committee to agree that the Council continues support for the Beeston Business Improvement District (BID) and to vote in favour of a second 5-year period from 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2020 in the renew ballot.

Background

2. A Business Improvement District is a business led body formed to improve a defined commercial area. Legislation enabling the formation of BID's was passed in 2003
3. A BID is funded through the BID levy, which is a percentage of a businesses' rateable value. Once a ballot is successful the BID levy is mandatory for all eligible businesses. BIDs can choose to exclude certain businesses from paying the levy (and therefore from voting in the BID ballot). Many BIDs exclude the smallest businesses and charities; some exclude certain business sectors or types of business. The BID levy is collected by the local authority into a ring-fenced account and passed to the BID Company for use on the projects and services set out in the BID proposal. The BID levy is on business occupiers rather than property owners.
4. BIDs are often successful at attracting funding in addition to the BID levy. Local authorities, property owners, and businesses outside the BID area can all provide additional income for BIDs through voluntary agreements.
5. BIDs operate for a maximum of five years. If they wish to continue they must go through a renewal ballot process to secure another BID term of up to five years.
6. Following a ballot in which the majority of businesses supported the formation of a Beeston BID, operations commenced in 2010 giving rise to the requirement of the renew ballot.
7. Members will recall that at Economic Development Committee on the 7th July 2015 a presentation on the role and achievements of the Beeston BID was given.

Beeston BID Renew Ballot

8. There is a voting period from 2 September to 29 September 2015. Papers providing the County Council with an opportunity to participate in the renew ballot were not received in time to enable this item to be included on the agenda for the Economic Development Committee meeting being held on 8 September and is the reason for this being an additional urgent item.

9. The County Council is eligible to vote in the BID renewal ballot by virtue of it being the occupier of Roundhill Primary School and Beeston library, the County Council therefore has two votes.
10. The Beeston BID 2016 – 2020 [Business Plan](#), describes the priority activities and funding profiles for the organisation. There will be a levy of 2.5% for non-domestic properties within the BID area that have a rateable value of less than £25,000 and a levy of 2% for those non-domestic properties with a rateable value of over £25,000. The BID levy applies to non-domestic properties with a rateable value of over £1,000 and excludes non trading charitable organisations that receive 100% rate relief from Broxtowe Borough Council.
11. Key strategic objectives for the BID going forward include Beeston being:
 - An exciting place to shop;
 - A fun place to socialise;
 - A welcoming and safe environment;
 - A professional place to do business.

Other Options Considered

12. In addition to voting in favour of Beeston BID continuing for a second 5-year period the Council has the option to vote against the renewal or to abstain.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

13. The Strategic Plan establishes for the Council a priority of having attractive and economically vibrant towns and that the Council will work in partnership with town centre groups to co-ordinate activities. A continuing Beeston BID will support the realisation of these strategic County Council priorities.

Statutory and Policy Implications

14. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, the public sector equality duty, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

It is recommended that

1. Economic Development Committee support the continuation of the Beeston BID and cast the County Council votes in favour of a second 5-year period in the renew ballot.

Report of the Group Manager, Corporate Strategy, Celia Morris

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Celia Morris, Ext 72043

Constitutional Comments (SLB 03.09.15)

Economic Development Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report.

Financial Comments (SES 03.09.15)

There are no specific financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers

Unlocking Beeston's Potential, Business Plan 2016-2020 A Business Plan for the renewal of the Beeston Business Improvement District.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected:

All Beeston divisions and members