

Meeting: Council

Date: Wednesday 25 February 2009

Subject: Town centre business improvement district (BID)

Report of: Councillor David Tutt on behalf of the Cabinet

The Council is asked to consider the Cabinet minutes and resolutions from the meeting held on 11 February 2009. These are set out below.

Further copies of the report are available on request – please see end of this report. Copies may be seen on the Council’s website at:
<http://www.eastbourne.gov.uk/council/meetings/cabinet/>

The Council is asked to:-

Endorse the proposals.

Minute Extract
CABINET, 11 February 2009

- 111 Town centre business improvement district** (Cabinet, 5 June 2009, page 27, minute 21)
- 111.1 Cabinet considered the report of the Director of Economy, Tourism, and Environment reporting that formal submission of the business improvement proposal by the Town Centre Management Initiative was expected shortly. The purpose of this report was to ensure that the necessary decisions were in place so that the BID proposal, once received, could go to a vote of local businesses in April 2009.
- 111.2 The proposals had been the subject of extensive consultation with businesses and had received sufficient support to justify moving to a formal ballot. If agreed, the BID could be put into effect from April 2010. Businesses with a rateable value of £10,000 or more a year located a defined area of the town centre would be subject to a 1.5% levy. The levies would go into a special fund that would be managed by a BID company under the control of businesses and used to provide additional services, enhance amenities and economic promotion activity and supplement the spending already made by the council on these activities.
- 111.3 In June 2008, Cabinet had agreed to fund the consultation and ballot stages of the BID proposal with an allocation of £24,000. The costs of collecting the levy and operating the BID scheme would be met from the BID fund itself.

111.4 **Resolved:** (1) That the outline BID proposal be approved and its conformity with relevant Council plans and policies including the East Sussex Sustainable Community Strategy and the Council Plan be acknowledged.

(2) That full Council be asked to endorse the proposals.

(3) That the Director of Economy Tourism and Environment, in liaison with the Leader, be given delegated authority to approve formal BID proposal when received subject to it being in line with the outline proposals and to then instruct the Council's Returning Officer (as 'ballot holder) to proceed with the ballot and require the Head of Revenues and Benefits to supply up to date rating list information in suitable format to the ballot contractor.

(4) To confirm that the costs of consultation and the ballot will be met by the Council.

(5) That the Director of Economy Tourism and Environment be authorised to vote in favour of the BID in respect of business hereditaments held by the Council within the BID area.

(6) That if the ballot is successful, to authorise the Head of Revenues and Benefits to administer, bill, collect and enforce levies under the BID scheme and authorise the Chief Finance Officer to operate a BID revenue account and pass over monies to the BID company.

(7) To note the creation of the project board, and team to oversee the ballot preparations and process and if successful the establishment of the BID.

(8) To note that the Council's Returning Officer is permitted to delegate his responsibilities to others and that he is intending to engage the services of Electoral Reform Services Ltd. to undertake the ballot on his behalf.

Note: Councillor Troy Tester declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this matter and withdrew from the meeting whilst the item was being considered.

For a copy of the reports please contact Local Democracy at the Town Hall, Eastbourne, BN21 4UG. Tel. (01323) 415023 or 415031.
E-mail: localdemocracy@eastbourne.gov.uk

For further information please contact
Penny Shearer, Economic Development Manager, Tel. (01323) 415030.
E-mail: penny.shearer@eastbourne.gov.uk

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