

CABINET – 14TH JANUARY 2021

Report of the Scrutiny Commission

ITEM 6 LOUGHBOROUGH BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (BID) 3RD TERM

Purpose of Report

To consider the comments and recommendations of the Scrutiny Commission in relation to the Loughborough Business Improvement District 3rd Term.

Recommendation of the Scrutiny Commission

That the Cabinet be informed that the Commission welcomes and supports the recommendations set out in the report of the Head of Leisure and Culture.

Reason

The Commission, having carefully considered and asked questions on the report felt the Cabinet should approve the recommendations set out.

Meeting Discussion

- i. The current process was preferable as the ballot would require a demonstration of the intent to utilise funds. The collection of levy funds was substantial over the five-year period and the consideration of additional charges for the development of the business plan, for example, would potentially discourage businesses voting in a ballot.
- ii. It was not possible for the Council to undertake the business consultation internally as the process required independence and neutrality in order to avoid bias.
- iii. The Council had waived the collection of the BID levy fee during the Covid-19 pandemic in order to support local businesses. The BID had since developed new strategies in order to overcome these issues and had now collected a substantial proportion of the levy (£200k, compared to a usual collection of £230k).

Policy Justification and Previous Decisions

Scrutiny Commission Procedure Rule 11.12 sets out the procedure by which a report of a Scrutiny Committee should be considered by Cabinet.

Implementation Timetable including Future Decisions and Scrutiny

The information on this in the Cabinet report is not affected by the recommendation of the Scrutiny Commission.

Report Implications

The following implications have been identified for this report.

Financial Implications

There are no further financial implications associated with the recommendation of the Scrutiny Commission.

Risk Management

There are no specific risks associated with the recommendations of the Scrutiny Commission.

Key Decision:	Yes
Background Paper:	Scrutiny Commission Minute 110 2020/21, 11th January 2021
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