



<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>Funding for Coleraine Business Improvement District</b>
<b>Committee Report Submitted To:</b>	Leisure & Development Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	18 June 2024
<b>For Decision or For Information</b>	For Decision
<b>For Discussion In Committee</b>	No

<b>Linkage to Council Strategy (2021-25)</b>	
Strategic Theme	A Thriving Economy
Outcome	Council facilitates towns and villages in the borough to continue to provide quality environments which evolve to meet the needs of their citizens, businesses and visitors to them
Lead Officer	Head of Prosperity & Place / Town Centre Manager

<b>Budgetary Considerations</b>	
Cost of Proposal	£24,506.96
Included in Current Year Estimates	<b>YES</b>
Capital/Revenue	Revenue
Code	30054
Staffing Costs	n/a

<b>Legal Considerations</b>	
Input of Legal Services Required	<b>NO</b>
Legal Opinion Obtained	<b>NO</b>

<b>Screening Requirements</b>	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	Yes/No	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:

## **1.0 Purpose of Report**

**The purpose of this report is a request from Coleraine Business Improvement District (CBID) for funding to progress the function of the BID towards a re-ballot of the eligible business ratepayers in the BID area to continue operation of the BID for a further 5 years.**

## **2.0 Background**

Council funding for the operation of the Coleraine BID ended on 31 March 2024 as part of a five-year support package and was administered through the Town & Village Management function within Prosperity & Place.

### What is a BID?

A BID is a business led initiative within a defined geographical area, in this case Coleraine Town Centre, which will identify actions for additional improvements which are funded via an additional mandatory levy collected through the rates system.

A BID can occur where a group of interested businesses get together with their local authority to consider what improvements are needed in their area over and above statutory provision. They then put together a plan, cost it, and decide on an amount of levy that each business must pay over a 5-year period to fund the improvements. The plan is then put out for ballot across all businesses included in the BID area. If the ballot is successful, the BID is implemented, and all businesses in the area must pay. BIDs have seen tremendous success across England, Scotland and many other European and international locations. Since the establishment of national Business Improvement District legislation in England and Wales in 2005, there are over 180 BIDs in place investing more than £300 million into local economies.

The Business Improvement Districts Act (NI) received Royal Assent on 21 March 2013 and secondary legislation was implemented in 2014. This has allowed businesses in Northern Ireland to work with their local councils to establish BIDs on a statutory, rather than voluntary, basis. There are currently 8 BIDs operating in Northern Ireland: three in Belfast; one in Ballymena; one in Enniskillen; one in Newry; one in Strabane; and one in Coleraine.

The Coleraine BID is about to undertake a renewal process to seek approval to continue its operation for a further five years.

The Town & Village Management section has identified support for the Coleraine BID within its business plan for 2024-25 under Business Plan Objective 4: *'Develop, manage and coordinate place making principles to ensure the vitality and sustainability of the Borough's towns and villages as places to be'*. Performance indicators identified under this budget line include a review of the Service Level Agreement with BID in relation to the renewal ballot, attendance at Coleraine BID board meetings and delivery of the CBID annual report.

## **3.0 Proposals**

Town & Village Management has received a request from the Chair of Coleraine BID for an extension to the current Council Funding up to September 2024 and a contribution towards the necessary ballot renewal costs, totalling £24,506.96.

The extension of funding will cover salary and office costs for 6-months from April 2024 to end of the Ballot process at the end of September 2024 £18,681.96.

The ballot renewal process costs are estimated at £5,825. This cost is made up of CIVICA independent electoral organisation ballot costs at £3,825 and Business Plan and distribution costs £2,000. The returning officer for the Ballot process will be the Chief Executive of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council.

This funding will enable Coleraine BID to continue with the delivery of worthwhile projects whilst compiling and presenting new proposals for the next 5 years.

#### **4.0 Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Leisure and Development Committee recommends to Council that the funding support for Coleraine BID is extended as proposed for an additional six months and that additional costs for the renewal process are also covered to a total of £24,506.96.