

DECISION NOTICE OF AN INDIVIDUAL MEMBER OF GWYNEDD COUNCIL CABINET

DATE OF DECISION 25 February 2021

DATE DECISION PUBLISHED 2 March 2021

(The Decision Notice is presented as an urgent decision in accordance with section 14.15.(c) of the Constitution so as to be exempt from the call-in procedure to ensure that the Council can submit votes before the closing date. Agreement from the Chair of the Education and Economy Scrutiny Committee has been received in that the decision is an urgent matter and that the proposed decision is reasonable under the circumstances.)

Cabinet Member: Councillor Gareth Thomas

Cabinet Member for Economy and Community

SUBJECT

Proposed Bangor Business Improvement District (BID) - Gwynedd Council Votes

DECISION

Gareth Thomas

Cabinet Member for Economy and Community That Gwynedd Council returns all its votes in favour of the Bangor Business Improvement District proposal.

That Gwynedd Council returns all its votes in favour of the Bangor Business Improvement District proposal.

2. To Authorise the Head of Economy and Community Department to sign the paper and submit the votes by 11 March 2021.

REASON WHY THE DECISION IS NEEDED

Please see attached Officer Report

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND ANY RELEVANT DISPENSATIONS APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL'S STANDARDS COMMITTEE

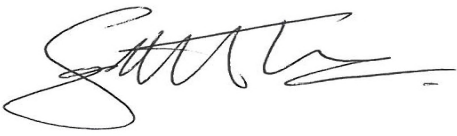
None

ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION

Consultation with
Gwynedd Council Statutory Officers

The results of the consultations are reported upon in the attached report

SUBJECT: Proposed Bangor Business Improvement District (BID) - Gwynedd Council Votes

Name and title of Cabinet Member :	Cllr Gareth Thomas Cabinet Member for Economy and Community
Name and title of the Report's Author:	Esyllt Rhys Jones Regeneration Programmes Manager
Date Decision was Taken:	25 February 2021
Signature of Cabinet Member :	

DECISION

1. That Gwynedd Council returns all its votes in favour of the Bangor Business Improvement District proposal.
2. To Authorise the Head of Economy and Community Department to sign the paper and submit the votes by 11 March 2021.

(The Decision Notice is presented as an urgent decision in accordance with section 14.15.(c) of the Constitution so as to be exempt from the call-in procedure to ensure that the Council can submit votes before the closing date. Agreement from the Chair of the Education and Economy Scrutiny Committee has been received in that the decision is an urgent matter and that the proposed decision is reasonable under the circumstances.)

Why the need for a decision

Following a successful vote back in 2015, the Bangor Business Improvement District was established in April 2016. The Bangor BID company was established to implement the BID. In accordance with The Business Improvement District (Wales) Regulations 2005, the BID can only be operational for a five year period and it is required to follow a similar process again for another term. The current situation is that the Bangor BID term will end on 31 March 2021.

At the Cabinet meeting on 15 December 2020, it was resolved to support holding a vote on the proposals received from the Bangor BID company for a second term of the Business Improvement District (BID). During that meeting, it was resolved to delegate power to the Cabinet Member for Economy and Community to take responsibility for voting on behalf of Gwynedd Council. The votes will close on 11 March in Bangor.

The Council has a dual role within the Business Improvement Districts. While the Council collects the levy, it is also a non-domestic ratepayer in the city.

Gwynedd Council, as a non-domestic ratepayer, has a vote for each of its properties. In Bangor, the Gwynedd Council properties include car parks, offices, halls and public toilets. These are all included within the proposed BID.

If a BID is established, the Council would have to pay the additional levy for a non-domestic property in Council ownership within the BID boundaries e.g. based on a levy of 1.5%, it is anticipated that there would be an additional cost of approximately £2,946.75 per annum in Bangor.

Business Improvement Districts are acknowledged as a local regeneration vehicle that respond directly to the economic and environmental challenges of town centre businesses. Welsh Government is very supportive of this model of working and has supported Local Authorities over the past years to establish and support them. Welsh Government considers them to be a key part of the regeneration process in the context of their Regeneration Investment Programmes.

The Council's Economy and Community Department will also support Business Improvement Districts as an organisation that has the ability to drive the regeneration agenda within towns, triggering local economic developments. The investment made by businesses by paying the levy ensures that important issues within the business community can be addressed and that local ownership is taken of the efforts made to make Bangor a more prosperous place.

Relevant timetable:

The Bangor BID vote will close on 11 March, 2021.

VIEWS OF THE STATUTORY OFFICERS

1. Swyddog Monitro/ Monitoring Officer:-

No comments to add regarding propriety.

2. Prif Swyddog Cyllid/Chief Finance Officer:-

I have no objection to the decision to give the Council's votes in favour of continuing with the Business Improvement District for a further five years due to the benefits in terms of local regeneration that respond directly to the economic and environmental challenges of town centre businesses. A budget is in place to pay the Council's annual levy if the result of the vote is in favour of continuing.

LOCAL MEMBER'S VIEWS

Not relevant

