

Decision under Delegated Powers

Officer Requesting Decision

Head of Leisure and Culture

Officer Making the Decision

Chief Executive

Recommendation

That the levy collection fee of £19,500 for the Loughborough Business Improvement Bid (BID) be waived with effect from 1st April 2020 until 31st March 2021.

Reason

To take action in relation to a matter which would otherwise have been submitted to Cabinet.

Authority for Decision

Delegation of Executive functions - (Section 8.3 of the Constitution states that the Chief Executive, Strategic Directors and Heads of Service can take such action as is required in the case of an emergency or urgency subject to:

- (i) consultation with the Leader (or, in the Leader's absence, the Deputy Leaders);
- (ii) consultation with the Chief Executive and relevant Strategic Directors in each case; and
- (iii) a report on the action taken being made to the next meeting of the Cabinet.

Decision and Date



3rd April 2020

Background

Business Improvement Districts (BIDS) are business led partnerships which are created through a ballot process to deliver additional services to local businesses.

The Loughborough BID (also known as Love Loughborough) was set up in 2011. The BID is a defined area in which a levy is charged on all business rate payers in addition to the business rates bill. This levy is used to develop projects which will benefit businesses in the local area.

Charnwood Borough Council manages the billing and the collection of the levy and holds the levy in a ring-fenced revenue account on behalf of the BID body.

In view of the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic impact on businesses it is recognised that the BID is unlikely to generate sufficient monies in the medium term and therefore it is appropriate that the Council as the billing authority waives the levy payment from 1st April 2020 until 31st March 2021.

Financial Implications

The cost of the BID levy collection is £19,500, bills are issued to businesses in the BID area on behalf of the BID in April and August.

The total cost of waiving this fee for the next 12 months is £19,500.

Consultation with Leader

The Leader, Councillor Morgan was consulted and stated, "I confirm that I'm happy with the proposal".

Consultation with Chief Executive and relevant Strategic Directors

Consultation has been effectively concluded via the Council's COVID-19 organisational response to the pandemic. The Chief Executive and all Directors have concluded that the recommendations of this report are both necessary and urgent.

Risk Management

There are no specific risks associated with this decision. In reality the risks around this decision relate to not making the funding available.

Key Decision:	No
<i>Date included on Forward Plan</i>	N/A
Background Papers:	None