



Meeting: Council

Date: 1 June 2015

Wards Affected: All Wards

Report Title: Torbay Retail and Tourism Business Improvement District (TRTBID) for Torbay

Is the decision a key decision? No

When does the decision need to be implemented? In time for the ballot

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1. Purpose and Introduction

- 1.1 A ballot in respect of the proposal to create a combined retail and tourism business improvement district for the whole of Torbay is planned. It is proposed that the business improvement district will enable more effective working between the retail sector and tourism sector to increase staying and day visitors as well as increasing footfall within the town centres and retail areas. The Council will be entitled to vote in the ballot, and there needs to be approval as to who will cast the votes for the Council.

2. Proposed Decision

- 2.1 That the Executive Director of Operations and Finance, in consultation with the Mayor and Group Leaders be nominated to cast the Council's votes in the ballot for a retail and tourism business improvement district.

3. Reason for Decision

- 3.1 The Council will be entitled to vote in the ballot, and there needs to be approval as to who will cast the same.

Supporting Information

4. Position

- 4.1 On 25 September 2014, the Council approved funding of £100,000 over a two year period to develop the Tourism and Retail Business Improvement District (TRTBID) for Torbay with a view to reaching a ballot by autumn 2015.

- 4.2 The Council contracted with Mosaic Partnership to progress the TRTBID and they gave formal notice requesting the billing authority (Torbay Council) to hold a ballot in relation to the TRTBID proposal, (in accordance with Regulation 4(2) (ii) of the Business Improvement Districts (England) Regulations 2004) on 5 January 2015.
- 4.3 The TRTBID levy will be applied to all ratepayers within the defined area of the Borough of Torbay with a rateable value of £7,500 or more. Only businesses with the following rates categorisation will be included:
- Retail
 - Retail (Finance)
 - Public Houses
 - Public Conveniences
 - Marine
 - Language Schools
 - Food and Drink
 - Entertainment and Leisure
 - Conference
 - Communication
 - Car Parking
 - Beach huts
 - Advertising
 - Accommodation (Self Catering)
 - Accommodation (Hotel)
 - Accommodation (Guest Houses)
 - Accommodation (Caravan Park)
 - Accommodation (Camping)
 - Accommodation (Holiday Units)
- 4.4 Based on current records, Torbay Council will be responsible for casting a vote within the TRTBID for the 44 hereditaments included at Appendix 1 to this report as the Business Ratepayer (owner or occupier). The BID levy payable by the Council based on the current levy recommendation of 1.75% of business rateable value will be £33,932 (Note: this may be subject to change following the consultation end date of 5 June 2015).

5. Possibilities and Options

- 5.1 If the ballot is to take place, it is important that the Council exercises its right to vote.

6. Fair Decision Making

- 6.1 In determining how to vote on behalf of the Council, in its capacity as a landowner/occupier, the Executive Director of Operations and Finance will consult with the Mayor and Group Leaders.

7. Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012

7.1 Mosaic Partnership will contract with Electoral Reform Services to conduct the ballot. However they will formally need to be given the go ahead by the Returning Officer at Torbay Council which is the responsible body as determined by the BID legislation for this element.

8. Risks

8.1 Failure

Appendices

Appendix 1 List of Liability for Torbay Council, should the ballot result prove positive

Additional Information

Business Improvement Districts (England) Regulations 2014