

OPEN

Corporate Policy Committee

11 July 2023

Crewe Business Improvement District

Report of: Peter Skates, Acting Executive Director - Place

Report Reference No: CP/46/23-24

Ward(s) Affected: Crewe Central, Crewe East, Crewe South, and Crewe West

Purpose of Report

- 1 A formal notification has been submitted to the Council, setting out the intention of Groundwork CLM, on behalf of the Crewe BID Steering Group, to put a proposal for a Crewe Business Improvement District (BID) to a ballot.
- 2 The report provides information on BIDs; the emerging draft Crewe BID proposal; sets out the anticipated implications of the notification; and seeks decisions enabling officers to respond appropriately to the notification.

Executive Summary

- 3 The Council has received formal notification that Groundwork Cheshire Lancashire & Merseyside (Groundwork CLM), a charity focused on mobilising practical community action to tackle poverty and improve the environment across the UK, intend to submit a proposal for a Business Improvement District (BID) in Crewe and will be requesting the Council hold a postal ballot on the BID proposal on or after 18 July 2023.
- 4 If successful at ballot, this will be the second BID in Cheshire East, the first being the Wilmslow Town Centre BID.
- 5 The Corporate Plan identifies the Council's ambition to ensure the success of town centres in our key towns. Many councils view BIDs as a valuable addition to their town centres, supporting the economy and enabling collaboration between town centre businesses focused on common ambitions. This proposal has the potential to support the

Council's ambitions in enabling vital and viable town centres, subject to the detail of the final BID proposal.

- 6 There is a need to comply with the Business Improvement Districts (England) Regulations 2004, (BID Regulations) including providing information to the BID proposer, holding a postal ballot if formally requested to do so, and if the BID is successful at ballot, taking responsibility for collection of the BID levy on behalf of the BID. This has both staff resource and financial implications.
- 7 There are additional implications for the Council as the owner of several hereditaments within the proposed BID area. The Council will be entitled to vote in any BID ballot, and, if the BID is successful at ballot, will be liable to pay the levy for its hereditaments falling within the scope of the BID proposal.
- 8 This report to Corporate Policy Committee is intended to ensure members are aware of actions officers will need to take in response to the emerging BID proposal; to outline the anticipated resource implications for the Council associated with the process of establishing a BID; and to seek a decision on any charges to be made by the Council associated with the BID development, ballot, and levy collection.
- 9 Given that the detail of the BID proposal will not be fixed until on or after 18 July 2023, the Council cannot until that time take a final stance on the BID proposal. A separate, later report will therefore be presented to a committee post receipt of the formal BID proposal. Given that the detail of the proposal will have implications for the Council in terms of its built assets within the BID area, and its anticipated impact on town centre vitality and viability, it is currently intended to take this second report to Economy and Growth Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Corporate Policy Committee agree the following:

1. The Executive Director of Place shall notify the BID proposer of the Council's intention to seek to recoup the costs to the Council arising from BID development and levy collection, and any other associated costs allowable under the Business Improvement Districts (England) Regulations 2004.

2. On receipt of the Crewe Business Improvement District (BID) final proposal:
 - a. The Chief Executive as Returning Officer and “Ballot Holder” shall check the BID proposal against the requirements set out in the BID Regulations, and subject to the BID proposal meeting the necessary requirements, shall make all necessary arrangements for the Crewe BID proposal ballot to take place, and for the results of the ballot to be counted and declared on behalf of the BID proposer.
 - b. The Executive Director for Place shall take a further report to the Economy and Growth Committee outlining the detail of the final BID proposal and seeking any necessary further authority to respond.
3. That subject to a “yes” vote at ballot; the Executive Director for Place shall ensure a final review of the BID proposal is undertaken and shall determine whether there is any cause to veto the proposals having regard to all relevant matters as prescribed by the BID Regulations; and following that determination shall either confirm that the Council will not veto the BID proposals or serve a notice to exercise a veto.
4. That subject to a “yes” vote at ballot, and the Executive Director of Place confirming that the Council will not veto the BID proposals:
 - a. The Council’s Monitoring Officer shall make necessary arrangements for the completion and updating of such legal agreements as he considers necessary to facilitate the BID, including agreements ensuring clarity around baseline service levels within the BID area, and clarity of arrangements for collection and management of the BID levy.
 - b. The Council as billing authority shall make necessary arrangements for billing, collection and enforcement of the BID levy, and its transfer to the body responsible for the Crewe BID.

Background

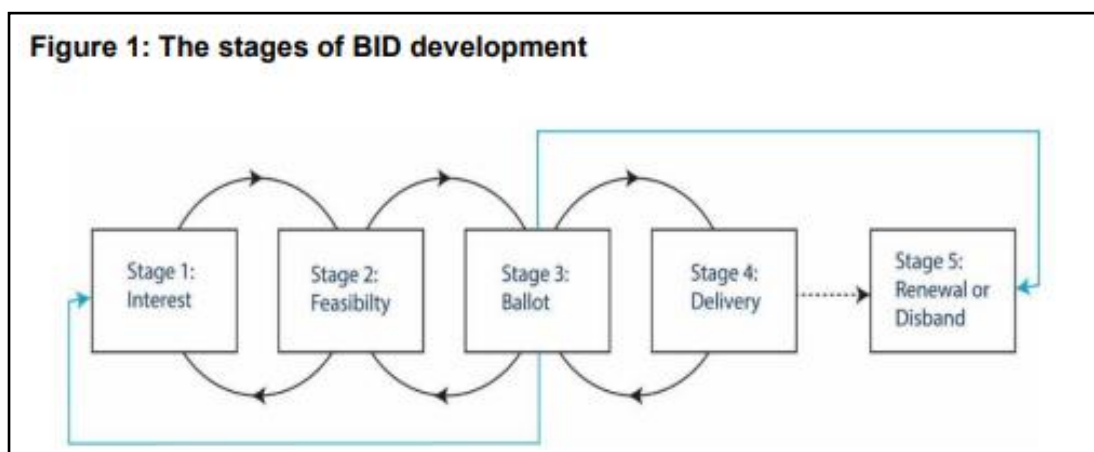
- 10 A Business Improvement District (BID) is a defined area where business rate payers have voted in a ballot to pay a levy, in addition to business rates, into a fund for a fixed period (normally 5 years), and that

levy is then managed to deliver specific agreed initiatives to benefit the BID area.

- 11 A majority of BIDs are focused on town centres and BIDs have the potential to bring significant extra regeneration impact to a town or district centre. The priorities for BID levy spend will depend on the exact detail of the final BID proposal, but town centre BIDs might typically support such things as improving the general appearance of the BID area, enhanced marketing and promotional activity, events to stimulate footfall, crime reduction initiatives, access initiatives such as wayfinding, support for business such as schemes to reduce costs through combined procurement, and collective training opportunities.
- 12 To be successful at ballot a BID proposal must have gained a simple majority vote in favour, both in terms of the number of voters and the aggregate value of business rates of those that have voted. The Regulations do not specify how a BID scheme should be managed once established. BIDs may constitute their managing board, make spending decisions, and seek additional income as they see fit. Most are non-profit bodies, but this is not required by legislation.
- 13 Legislation to enable BIDs was included in the Local Government Act 2003. Subsequently the Business Improvement Districts (England) Regulations 2004 outlined the procedures for their establishment and management. Since their introduction, BIDS have become an important mechanism for place management in many locations. There are currently around 324 BIDs across Great Britain, Northern Ireland and Ireland (Source 2021 BID survey), including one in Cheshire East (Wilmslow) at present. A number of BIDS are also currently in place across neighbouring authorities, including the following: Manchester BID; Stockport Town Centre BID; Warrington Town Centre BID, Altrincham BID, and no fewer than five BIDs in Cheshire West and Chester.
- 14 BIDS have a maximum term of five years unless renewed by reaffirmation of support through a further ballot. Many BIDs progress beyond their initial five-year term, with some of the UK's longest-running BIDs, having now been in operation for over 15 years and through four ballots. Evidence indicates that BID ballot results increase in support the longer a BID has been in existence. (Institute of Place Management 2019). This suggests that BIDs can be seen by local businesses as adding value worthy of the levy charged. Regional locations with long-running BIDs include Liverpool City Centre and Winsford Industrial Estate in Cheshire West, both now in their fourth term.
- 15 A BID has the potential to bring significant extra regeneration impact to a locality. They are financed principally through an annual compulsory

levy based on the rateable value of businesses in the BID area. The levy rate is typically something in the order of 1.5% of rateable value, but the rate is a matter of choice for the BID proposer. This income is ringfenced to provide improvements in the BID area that would otherwise not occur. The BID can also draw on other public and private funding streams.

- 16 The development of a BID can be described in the five stages set out in Figure 1 (Source Institute of Place Management (IPM)).

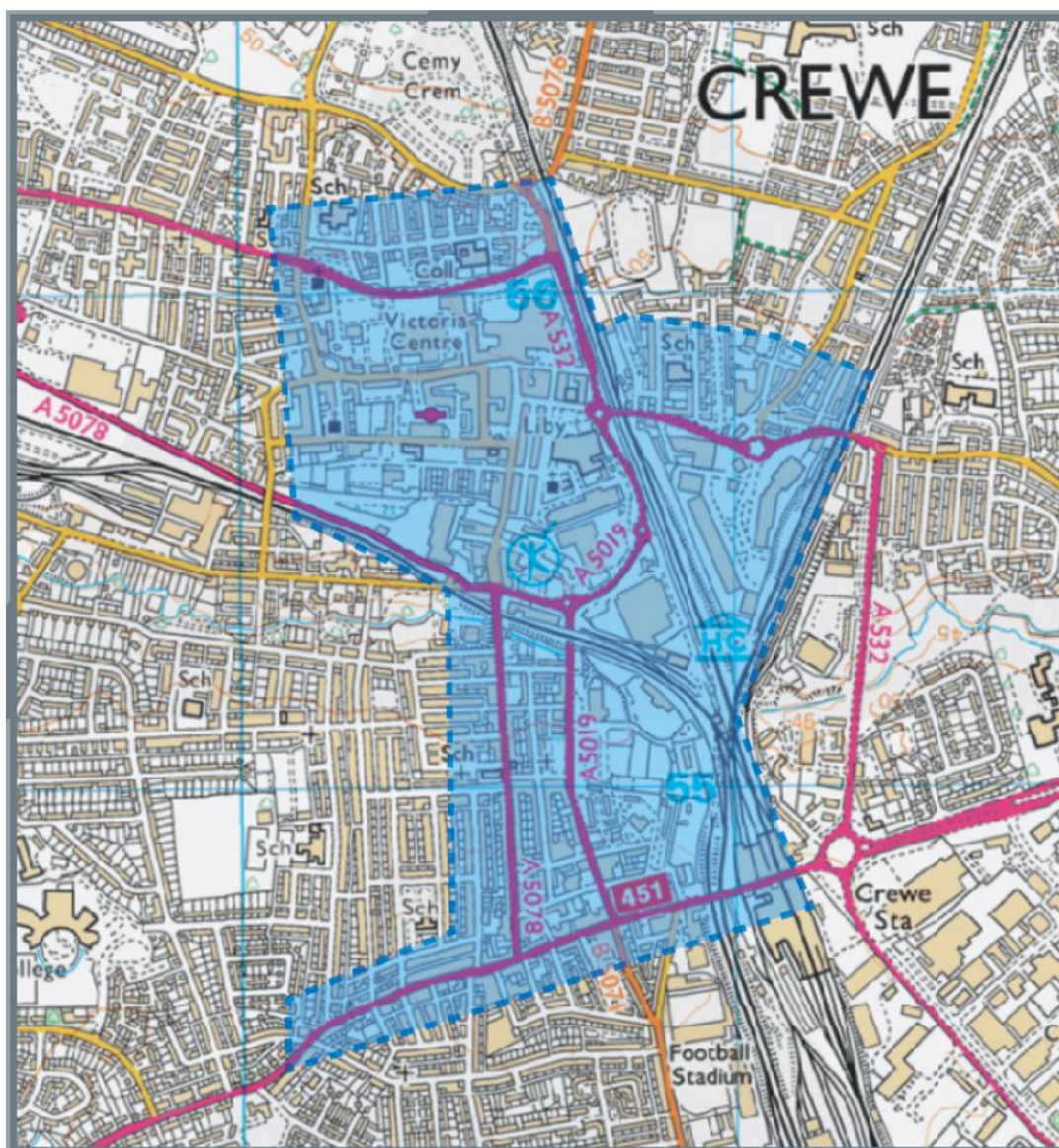


- 17 In general terms, where there is potential interest in a BID, work is undertaken to test feasibility. This will involve consideration of a potential BID geography, testing the appetite of businesses, considering the amount of levy which could be raised, and contemplating the priorities the BID might focus on. If the feasibility work suggests there is likely to be sufficient support for a “yes” vote, a BID proposal may then be developed further and the local authority as billing authority requested to put the BID proposal to a ballot. If the BID is successful at ballot, it will then progress to delivery stage.
- 18 In September 2021, Crewe Town Council appointed Groundwork CLM to carry out a feasibility study on a potential BID in Crewe. In undertaking this work Groundwork established a Crewe BID Steering Group and sought to engage with a sample of 300+ businesses and stakeholders to gauge opinion on a range of issues and challenges for central Crewe. 84 businesses provided feedback. This work identified several areas where a BID could potentially add value above and beyond the statutory responsibilities of Cheshire East Council and ultimately the study recommended that a BID proposal be developed.
- 19 In August 2022 Crewe Town Council considered the report flowing from the feasibility study and resolved that the Town Council would appoint Groundwork to continue its work to develop a BID to take to ballot.
- 20 Subsequently, on 25th April 2023 Groundwork served notice on CEC confirming that the Crewe BID Steering Group intends to ask the

Council to hold a BID ballot. This notice (the “84 day notice”) is submitted at least 84 days before the BID proposer submits the formal BID proposal and a formal notice requesting the holding of the ballot. It is therefore anticipated that the final BID proposal and the notice requesting the BID ballot will be received by the authority on or shortly after 18 July 2023.

- 21 Whilst the Crewe BID proposal is still in development, the Council has been provided with draft proposals. These are subject to change until the BID proposal is finalised.
- 22 The Draft BID proposal anticipates the area of the BID will likely coincide with the plan illustrated in figure 2.

Figure 2: Anticipated BID Area



- 23 The final BID proposal will detail the levy rate, the non-domestic ratepayers for which the BID levy is to apply, and any reliefs that will be given. The levy may not apply to all ratepayers within the BID area, for example properties with lower rateable values may be excluded. The analysis of rateable value undertaken by Groundwork has shown that a BID could potentially generate an investment of up to £1.49 M over five years, allowing for exclusion of hereditaments with a rateable value below £12,000. The BID proposal when received will also set out how funds levied would be spent. The levy would be used to add value and the Council is therefore required to clearly set out current service levels to ensure additionality.
- 24 Despite the business-led approach to BID development and management, there are a series of critical roles that a local authority is required to perform to facilitate the establishment, smooth running and termination of a BID as required. Some of the key local authority roles are summarised below:

Preparation of Rating List Data

- 25 On receipt of a valid request from the BID proposer, the Local Authority is required to prepare a document giving the name of each business ratepayer within the boundary of the proposed BID, together with the address and rateable value of each relevant business property.

Action required on formal submission of proposals

- 26 On receipt of the formal submission of the BID proposal the Local Authority must check and be satisfied that the submission from the BID proposer includes the relevant information set out in the BID Regulations.

Baseline Agreement

- 27 The focus of a BID is to create a programme that provides additionality, complementing those services provided within the area by the local authority and other statutory services. The Regulations require the BID proposal to include the range of new or expanded services and works which would be provided using the levy collected. The local authority is in turn required to demonstrate its intention with regard to the services it provides, through baseline agreements. Officers will therefore need to draw up a statement of existing services, to be set out in a formal agreement if the BID progresses beyond ballot stage.

Operating Agreement and Collection of Levy

- 28 If the BID progresses beyond ballot stage, the local authority is required to manage the collection and enforcement of BID levy charges. It is

common practice for the BID body and the local authority to establish a levy collection agreement called an Operating Agreement. This agreement is to define the principles and processes for collecting the levy; enforcing the payment of the levy; reporting on collection and bad debt; monitoring provisions between the BID and the local authority; and providing regular detailed and summary information on the service to the BID as the client. Best practice suggests that a draft arrangement between the authority and BID should be available for scrutiny by businesses during the ballot period and hence officers need to work with the BID proposer to draft an Operating Agreement, to be finalised and signed if the BID progresses beyond the ballot.

Ballot

- 29 BIDs can only be established if they have been sanctioned through a formal postal ballot conducted among businesses that operate in the BID area. The ballot must return a majority in favour of the BID, both by number of votes and aggregate rateable value. Eligibility to vote is based on one vote per eligible business premise (hereditament) situated in the defined BID area. Business ratepayers vote for or against the establishment of a BID for a period of up to 5 years. Beyond that time a further ballot would be required to renew the BID. According to the BID survey of 2021, there has been a total of 822 BID ballots since 2004, of which 710 have been successful.
- 30 The Returning Officer is required to ensure the ballot is operated, either inhouse or outsourced, in line with the BID Regulations. Irrespective of whether the ballot is run in-house or outsourced, the local authority ballot holder remains legally responsible for the ballot process as set out in the Regulations. It is currently anticipated that the BID ballot would be outsourced.

Veto of BID Proposals

- 31 The Local Government Act 2003 sets out at S51 that where BID proposals are approved by a ballot, the billing authority has the power to veto the BID in limited circumstances only. This is where it considers that the BID would conflict to a material extent with formally adopted and published local authority policy, or where it considers the BID would place a significantly disproportionate and inequitable financial burden on any person or class of persons in the geographical area of the BID caused by the manipulation of that geographical area. This power must be exercised within 14 days of a successful ballot.

BID Governance

- 32 A Business Improvement District is managed by a Business Improvement District body. The BID body should be managed through a Board (or similar) with clear arrangements on how they will operate. The BID must decide on the mix of representatives to ensure their Board is an effective, decision-making body with the right skills, which can represent the mix of businesses in the area. If the BID ballot is successful governance arrangements would be finalised and a final commencement date set. It is understood that a commencement date in April 2024 is the current ambition. If the BID is successful at ballot and proceeds to commencement, as the Council would be a levy rate payer for several hereditaments within the anticipated BID boundary, there may be an opportunity for the authority to be represented on the BID Board (or equivalent). The Terms of Reference of any BID Board have not yet been set out. The Local Authority representation on any such BID Board will be considered further in the paper to be taken to Economy and Growth Committee having regard to the relevant decision-making framework.

Consultation and Engagement

- 33 The proposed BID would fall within four Cheshire East Wards: Crewe Central, represented by Cllr Anthony Critchley; Crewe South, represented by Cllr Laura Smith and Cllr Dawn Clark; Crewe West, represented by Cllr Marilyn Houston and Cllr Connor Naismith; and Crewe East represented by Cllr Hazel Faddes, Cllr Martin Edwards and Cllr Jill Rhodes. Cllrs Edwards, Rhodes, Clark, and Houston are also Crewe Town Councillors and Crewe Town Council has been instrumental in funding work to bring the BID proposal forward. All ward members will be briefed on the emerging BID proposal prior to committee.
- 34 In June 2023 Groundwork CLM ran a consultation on the draft BID proposal aimed principally at businesses who would be liable to pay the BID levy if the BID succeeds at ballot. The aim of this consultation was to help gather views to shape the BID proposal prior to finalisation.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 35 If a Council as billing authority receives formal notification of an emerging BID proposal, they must respond to enable that BID proposal to be properly considered in the manner prescribed by the BID Regulations. If a formal request to hold a ballot is submitted in accordance with the BID Regulations, unless it has just grounds to veto the proposal, the Council as the billing authority must instruct the 'ballot holder' (the Council's Returning Officer) to make the necessary arrangements for a postal ballot to take place. Putting a BID proposal to

ballot is a transparent and open mechanism for testing the appetite of businesses for paying an additional levy to be used for local priorities.

- 36 Similarly, if the BID is successful at ballot, the Regulations set out that the relevant billing authority, in this case the Council, shall provide for the imposition, administration, collection, recovery and application of the BID levy. Whilst the local authority is required to manage the collection and enforcement of BID levy charges, in practice the BID body and the local authority establish a levy collection agreement often known as an Operating Agreement. Additionally, technical guidance advises that it is best practice for a baseline agreement to be approved at the start of a BID's term which sets out baseline services the local authority is going to provide reflecting existing baseline services, and services to be provided by the BID.
- 37 This report seeks to inform members of the requirements and to ensure appropriate delegations to officers to enable the Regulations to be adhered to.
- 38 The BID proposal will generate additional work for several services within the Council and if the BID is successful at ballot there will be additional resource implications for the Council principally in the collection of levy charges as set out in more detail in the financial implications section of this report. There is scope within the BID Regulations for the Council to charge for various services provided to enable BID development, levy collection, and in certain prescribed, limited circumstances, ballot costs. There is no requirement for the Council to charge for these services, but it may choose to do so. It is therefore necessary for the Council to determine which costs it will seek to recover.
- 39 Having regard to current financial pressure, pressure on staff resources, and the fact that whatever decision is taken in respect of recovering costs associated with this BID proposal could set a precedent for future similar proposals, it is recommended that the Council seek to charge for all services provided by the Council which the Regulations specify can be recharged. This is aligned to the way in which the costs associated with the development of the Wilmslow BID were dealt with.

Other Options Considered

- 40 The following alternative options to the recommended option have been considered but are not recommended given the impacts and risks noted:

Option	Impact	Risk
Do nothing	<p>The BID proposal would not be transparently considered.</p> <p>The Council would be in breach of its duties under the BID Regulations</p>	<p>Complaint likely</p> <p>Loss of potential opportunity to raise additional funding to support Crewe</p>
Determine not to charge for some or all of the Council's services associated with responding to the BID proposal	<p>The BID proposers would have more resources available for spending in the BID area if the BID is successful at ballot.</p> <p>Budget and/or staff resourcing pressures for the Council</p> <p>Inconsistency in approach with Wilmslow BID proposal</p>	Complaints regarding inconsistency of approach

Implications and Comments

Monitoring Officer/Legal

- 41 The legal implications of the recommendations have largely been canvassed in the body of this report. In summary these are:
- (a) There is a need to comply with the Business Improvement Districts (England) Regulations 2004, (BID Regulations) including providing information to the BID proposer, holding a postal ballot if formally requested to do so, and if the BID is successful at ballot, taking responsibility for collection of the BID levy on behalf of the BID (6).
 - (b) There are additional implications for the Council as the owner of several hereditaments within the proposed BID area. If the BID proposal is successful at ballot, the Council will be liable to pay the levy for its hereditaments falling within the scope of the BID

proposal (7). These include Municipal House, Delamere House, the Lifestyle Centre and a number of car parks. Until the BID proposal is finalised it is not clear how much the levy for these assets will amount to but is currently estimated at £16,000 per annum (49).

- (c) The BID proposer must consult those affected by the proposed levy before submitting a request for a ballot.
- (d) A request to hold a ballot submitted in accordance with the BID Regulations, requires the Council as the billing authority to instruct the Council's Returning Officer to make arrangements for a postal ballot to take place (35). The Returning Officer is required to ensure the ballot is operated, either in-house or outsourced, in line with the BID Regulations. Irrespective of whether the ballot is run in-house or outsourced, the local authority ballot holder still remains legally responsible for the ballot process as set out within the Regulations (30). The Returning Officers costs are recoverable from the Council.
- (e) The Council is required to manage the collection and enforcement of BID levy charges. This will need a levy collection agreement with the BID body known as an Operating Agreement covering such matters as the processes for collecting the levy; enforcing the payment of the levy and reporting on collection and bad debt. Additionally, it is best practice for a baseline agreement to be approved at the start of a BID's term which sets out baseline services the local authority is going to provide reflecting existing baseline services, and services to be provided by the BID (36 & 27).
- (f) The Council is permitted to charge a reasonable fee for the collection of the BID levy (28). Costs incurred in developing the BID proposals, holding of the ballot or implementing the BID may be recovered through the BID levy if proposed by the BID body. (38 & 28).
- (g) The levy may not apply to all ratepayers within the BID area for example properties with lower rateable values might be excluded including Council ones (23).
- (h) Personal data will need to be disclosed. On receipt of a valid request from the BID Proposer, the Council is required to prepare a document (from its business rates records) with; the name of each business ratepayer within the boundary of the proposed BID, together with the address and rateable value of each relevant business property occupied or (if unoccupied) owned by

the ratepayer and provide this to the BID proposer for canvassing purposes (25).

- (i) BIDs can only be established if they have been sanctioned through a formal postal ballot conducted among businesses that operate in the BID area. The ballot must return a majority in favour of the BID, both by number of votes and aggregate rateable value (29). The Council is to ensure the BID proposer has sufficient funds to cover the cost of the ballot in the event it received a “no” vote and the number of “yes” votes were less than 20% of those entitled to vote, (46).
- (j) The Council has the power to veto the BID in limited circumstances. This is where it considers that the BID would conflict to a material extent with formally adopted and published local authority policy, or where it considers the BID would place a significantly disproportionate and inequitable financial burden on any person or class of persons in the geographical area of the BID (31).
- (k) The BID body should be managed through a Board (or similar) with clear arrangements on how they will operate. The Council may have the opportunity to be represented on the BID board (32).

Section 151 Officer/Finance

- 42 The BID proposal will generate additional work for a number of services within the Council and if the BID is successful at ballot there will be additional resource implications for the Council principally in the collection of levy charges. There is scope within the BID Regulations for the Council to charge for various services provided to enable BID development, the BID ballot (in certain specific circumstances) and levy collection, but not a requirement to do so. Councils do not always seek to recoup their costs associated with BID set up and levy collection. BID technical guidance (2015) suggests that there have been wide variations on BID charging policies across the country with 32% of BIDs not being charged for collection of the levy by their local authority and a median collection charge being £7,500. (BID National Survey 2021).
- 43 It is therefore necessary for the Council to determine which costs it will seek to recover such that the BID proposer can take account of this in finalising the BID proposals. For the Wilmslow BID proposal, the Council sought to recover a variety of costs and a similar approach is suggested as appropriate in this case.

- 44 Key costs to the Council associated with BID development, ballot and levy collection are anticipated to be the cost of gathering information required by the BID proposer, the cost of holding the ballot, the cost of gearing up to collect a levy, and annual costs in collection/enforcement for the lifetime of the BID. These costs are not currently budgeted for within the MTFS and are in the process of being estimated by the relevant services.
- 45 Regulation 2 allows the billing authority to make a 'reasonable charge' for providing information requested by the BID proposer. In reality this will amount to the cost of officer time.
- 46 It is intended to outsource the ballot with associated costs currently estimated to be in the order of £4,000. In the event the ballot returns a "no" vote and the number of "yes" votes is less than 20% of those entitled to vote, the Council may seek to recover the costs from the BID proposer as a civil debt. In other circumstances where a "no" vote is returned the ballot costs would likely need to be borne by the Council. The Council could request that the BID proposer includes in the BID proposal for ballot costs to be recovered from the levy in the event of a successful ballot but there is no guarantee this will be accepted by the proposer.
- 47 If the BID is successful at ballot, the Council as billing authority, would be responsible for collecting the levy. In the first year the costs to the Council of levy collection would need to include those associated with updating software to enable separate billing to take place. Additional costs of the external software service provider have been initially estimated at £5,500. Thereafter levy collection costs would largely be associated with production and delivery of bills/correspondence and some officer time. These costs are difficult to estimate with any accuracy until the details of the BID proposal are finalised since they would be impacted by the selected mechanism for charging which has yet to be determined. BID Technical Guidance suggests a reasonable fee may be charged for the collection of the levy. Initial assessment of typical annual charges for levy collection (where charges are made) suggest the authority could charge around 3% of the levy for collection. Based on the feasibility study undertaken this would amount to in the region of £9,000/annum based on current rateable values and multiplier, although this would need to be tested further once full details of the BID proposal are available.
- 48 Having regard to current pressures on staff resources and Council finances and the fact that whatever decision is taken in respect of recovering costs associated with this BID proposal could set a precedent for future similar proposals, it is recommended that the Council seek to charge for the services provided by the Council, to be

recouped from the BID proposer or the levy collected as appropriate. Where the Regulations are explicit that charges can be made to recover costs, it is recommended that the BID proposer/BID Body be billed an amount deemed appropriate by officers and commensurate with the Regulations. With regard to the cost of holding a ballot, on which the Regulations are silent other than in the limited specific circumstances covered by Regulation 10, it is recommended that the BID proposer be asked to voluntarily cover ballot costs in the event of a successful ballot from levies raised, noting that this may be rejected by the BID proposer.

- 49 In addition to the financial implications associated with the BID ballot and levy collection, as Cheshire East Council is the rate payer for hereditaments in the proposed BID area, if the BID is successful it will have to pay the levy on those properties. The Business Rates team have identified the hereditaments in the draft BID area for which CEC is the rate payer. Although no accurate estimates can be made before the BID proposal is finalised, based on the information available at this point, it has been estimated that the total levy will amount to circa £16,000 per annum for the lifetime of the BID, based on current rateable values and multiplier. It should be noted that this figure may change dependant on new development within Council ownership in the town centre, such as the planned new Multi Storey Car Park. It is anticipated that any levy payable will be requested by Facilities Management or the relevant service through the next MTFS process.
- 50 If the ballot is successful, the feasibility work provided to the Council projects that the BID could raise close to £300,000 per annum in levy income for sole use by the Central Crewe BID, although this will depend on the final BID proposal.

Policy

- 51 The Corporate Plan recognises that successful town centres are vital to ensuring thriving urban and rural economies with opportunities for all. A well-managed, successful BID could support Crewe to thrive economically. It also has the potential to support several other policies such as helping to tackle crime and anti-social activity; improving open spaces for people to socialise; and increasing footfall and vibrancy. The extent of alignment with Council policies can however only be confirmed once the final BID proposal has been received. This matter will therefore be considered further after the final BID proposal has been received and reported in a follow-on report to Economy and Growth Committee.
- 52 A BID proposal, subject to its final detail, could support the following aims and priorities of the Corporate Plan.

An open and enabling organisation	A council which empowers and cares about people	A thriving and sustainable place
<p>Ensure transparency in all aspects of council decision making.</p> <p>Support a sustainable financial future for the council, through service development, improvement and transformation</p> <p>Look at opportunities to bring more income into the borough</p>		<p>A great place for people to live, work and visit</p> <p>Thriving urban and rural economies with opportunities for all</p>

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

- 53 The Council has not undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) on this proposal since it is being brought forward by a third party and additionally at this point the BID proposal has not been finalised.

Human Resources

- 54 There are considered to be no direct significant implications for human resources stemming from this report.

Risk Management

- 55 There is potential for both positive and negative reactions from local businesses to this proposal. Whilst the Council is not the BID proposer there is a clear possibility that the BID proposal may be perceived as a Council initiative with consequent potential positive or negative public reaction, particularly as the Council would be responsible for collection of the levy. Risks around this can be mitigated by establishing a clear communication plan and liaison with the BID proposer.
- 56 The checks undertaken by the Council on receipt of the BID proposal include a review of finances designed to enable the Council to ensure the BID proposer can cover costs should the ballot be unsuccessful and return a 'yes' vote of less than 20% of those entitled to vote, reducing the risk of abortive costs falling to the Council.

- 57 There are additional reputational and financial risks which might flow from procedural error, for example should a challenge be lodged claiming an irregularity in the ballot process.

Rural Communities

- 58 There are considered to be no specific implications for rural communities arising from this report.

Children and Young People including Cared for Children, care leavers and Children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

- 59 There are considered to be no specific implications for young people/cared for children stemming from this report.

Public Health

- 60 There are considered to be no direct implications for public health stemming from the BID proposal. If the BID is successful in boosting the local economy this could potentially have beneficial health impacts although economic benefit may not necessarily filter to those in poorest health, particularly in a five-year period.

Climate Change

- 61 The BID proposal has the potential to impact on climate change in multiple ways. For example, if the BID supports business to thrive this could encourage more people in Crewe to stay in their local area for leisure but conversely it could attract new visitors from outside the area, both scenarios impacting on carbon emissions in different ways. Given that the Council would not be in control of BID expenditure it would likely be able to exercise only limited influence over initiatives which could have implications for climate change, whether positive or negative. If the Council has a representative on any future BID Board, there will likely be more scope to ensure that the climate change agenda is considered is considered when decisions are made by the BID body.

Access to Information	
Contact Officer:	Jo Wise, Development & Regeneration Delivery Manager jo.wise@cheshireeast.gov.uk 07870 391694
Appendices:	N/A
Background Papers:	N/A