

OFFICER DECISION RECORD (ODR2)

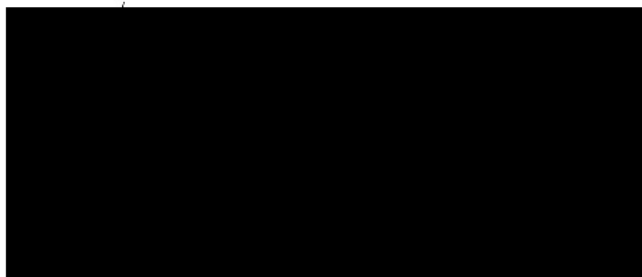
This form records an officer decision and is published in accordance with the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014

Date of Decision	5 December 2025
Decision Taker	Helen Charlesworth-May, Executive Director Adults, Health and Integration
Specific Delegation	<p>This record relates to an officer decision taken under a specific delegation by Corporate Policy Committee on 6th August 2025 to the Executive Director - Place.</p> <p>Committee resolved that subject to the Knutsford BID proposal receiving a “yes” vote at ballot; the Executive Director - Place should ensure a final review of the BID proposal and 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 to confirm that the Council will not veto the BID proposals or serve a notice to exercise a veto.</p>
Brief Description of Decision	Not to veto the result of the ballot to approve the Knutsford Business Improvement District proposal as declared on 28 th November 2025.
Reasons for the Decision and alternatives considered	<p>A Business Improvement District (BID) proposal for Knutsford Town Centre and part of Tatton Park was received by the Council together with a notice pursuant to regulation 4(2)(a)(ii) of the Business Improvement District Regulations 2004 requesting the Council as billing authority instruct the ballot holder (the Authority’s Returning officer) to hold a ballot in relation to the BID proposals.</p> <p>A postal ballot was subsequently held with the final date for receipt of ballot papers being 27th November 2025. The result of that ballot was declared on 28th November 2025. The official declaration of results is as at Appendix A which show the Knutsford Business Improvement District to be approved.</p> <p>The Local Government Act 2003 sets out at S51(2) that the billing authority has the power to veto BID arrangements in limited circumstances. The circumstances are set out in Regulation 12(1) of the BID (England) Regulations 2004.</p>

	<p>A veto may only occur where the local authority considers that the BID arrangements would conflict to a material extent with formally adopted and published local authority policy, or alternatively where it considers the BID arrangements would place a significantly disproportionate and inequitable financial burden on any person or class of persons in the geographical area of the BID Proposal caused by the manipulation of that geographical area. The power to veto must be exercised within 14 days of a successful ballot.</p> <p>The BID proposal sets out arrangements designed to support the vitality and viability of Knutsford. These ambitions align with Council policy for town centres as set out in the Corporate Plan and the Cheshire East Local Plan Strategy. Officers from Economic Development, Assets, Highways, Business Rates, Democratic Services, Planning, Visitor Economy, and Business Support have been made aware of the proposal. No service has raised any objective to the proposal.</p> <p>The BID boundary incorporates two key business areas in Knutsford and is considered to be a logical boundary. It is not considered therefore that the boundary has been manipulated in any way to impose an inequitable financial burden on any person or class of persons.</p> <p>It is therefore considered that there are no legal grounds to veto the Knutsford Business Improvement District.</p>
Member consultation and interests declared	This BID proposal was reported to Corporate Policy Committee on 6 August 2025 and Economy and Growth Committee on 11 November 2025. No objection has been raised by any Member.
Significant Decision	NO
Legal Implications	<p>Part 4, Section 49 Local Government Act 2003 (LGA 2003) identifies that BID arrangements are not to come into force unless proposals for the arrangements are approved by a ballot of the non-domestic ratepayers in the proposed business improvement district who are liable for the proposed BID levy. In accordance with Section 50(1) LGA 2003, BID proposals are approved by ballot if two conditions are satisfied:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - That a majority of those voting have voted in favour of the BID proposals; and

	<p>- That the aggregate of the rateable values of each hereditament in respect of which a person voting has voted in favour of the proposals exceeds the aggregate of the rateable values of each hereditament in respect of which a person voting has voted against the proposals.</p> <p>In such an event, the decision taker must satisfy themselves that none of the requirements within Regulation 12 of the Business Improvement District (England) Regulations 2004 (BID Regulations) have been met. If there appears to be no grounds under Section 51(2) LGA 2003 and the BID Regulations to exercise a veto of the ballot, no veto can be exercised, and the ballot must stand.</p> <p>Nick Wrigley – 25/11/2025 – Senior Lawyer</p>
Financial Implications	<p>As there are no grounds to veto the BID result the initial five-year period of operation for the Knutsford BID will commence in April 2026. Levies on eligible CEC hereditaments will become due. This was previously estimated at an initial £5.5K for which the affected services will need to fund from existing budgets. The costs incurred by the Council in facilitating the establishment of the BID will be collated and recovered from the BID body. The billing and collection of levies will be subject to a fixed % charge by the Council.</p> <p>Aaron LeCroy, Principal Accountant, 02/12/2025</p>
Confidential/Exempt Information	N/A
Background Papers	<p>Corporate Policy Committee 6 August 2025 Economy and Growth Committee 11 November 2025 Appendix A BID Ballot Declaration of Results</p>

Signed



Helen Charlesworth-May, Executive Director, Adults, Health and Integration

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Dated 05 December 2025