

OPEN

Corporate Policy Committee

06 August 2025

Knutsford Business Improvement District

Report of: Phil Cresswell, Executive Director - Place

Report Reference No: CPC/35/25-26

Ward(s) Affected: Knutsford and Mobberley

For Decision

Purpose of Report

- 1 Groundwork CLM has formally notified the Council of its intention to instruct Cheshire East Council, on behalf of the Knutsford BID Steering Group, to put a proposal for a Business Improvement District (BID) in Knutsford to a ballot. The proposed BID is to focus on Knutsford town centre but is also tentatively proposed to extend into Tatton Park.
- 2 The report provides information on BIDs; the emerging draft Knutsford BID proposal; the expected implications of the notification received; and seeks decisions enabling officers to respond appropriately.

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 Knutsford and request the Council hold a postal ballot on the BID proposal in late October/November 2025.
- 4 If successful at ballot, this will be the third BID in Cheshire East, the first being the Wilmslow Town Centre BID, the second being the Crewe BID.
- 5 The Cheshire East Plan (2025-29) sets out the Council's ambition to work with local businesses to unlock prosperity for all. Many councils view BIDs as a valuable tool to help their business communities thrive enabling collaboration between town centre businesses focused on

common ambitions. This proposal has the potential to help unlock prosperity, 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 added implications for the Council as the owner of hereditaments within the draft BID area. The Council will be entitled to vote in any BID ballot, the number of votes available being linked to the number of hereditaments for which the Council would be levy payer. If the BID is successful at ballot, the Council would then be liable to pay the BID 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 Until the detail of the BID proposal is fixed the Council cannot properly consider the implications for the Council as the owner of hereditaments within area. A separate later report will therefore be prepared, post receipt of the final BID proposal. Given that the ability to vote in the BID ballot is linked to the Council's built assets, and that a BID has the potential to impact on town centre vitality and viability, it is intended to take this second report to Economy and Growth Committee for a decision as to which way the Council should vote in the ballot. This follows the same decision-making process used for both the Wilmslow Town Centre BID and the Crewe BID.

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 recoup any and all reasonable costs associated with the Knutsford Business Improvement District and

officers shall recover reasonable charges for the associated services provided by the Council.

2. On receipt of the Knutsford 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 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, including a decision as to how the Council should vote in the ballot.
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 they consider 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 Knutsford BID.

Background

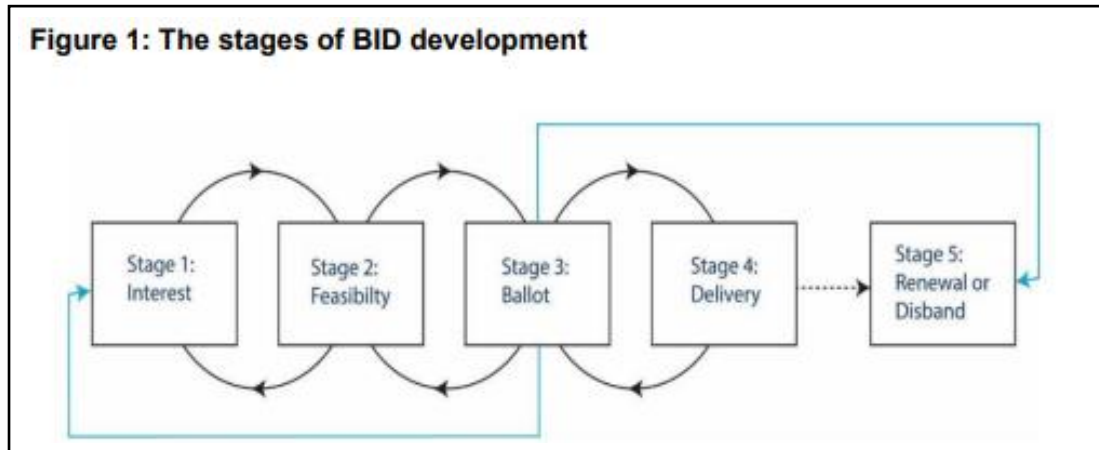
- 10 A Business Improvement District (BID) is a defined area where business rate payers have voted in a ballot to pay a levy, in addition to

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. 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.

- 11 The 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 other income as they see fit. Most are non-profit bodies, but this is not required by legislation.
- 13 Since their introduction, BIDs have become an important mechanism for place management in many locations. There are around 324 BIDs across Great Britain, Northern Ireland and Ireland (Source 2021 BID survey), now with two in Cheshire East - Wilmslow Town Centre BID and Crewe BID. Several BIDs are also currently in place across neighbouring authorities, including Manchester BID; Stockport Town Centre BID; Warrington Town Centre BID, Altrincham BID, and 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 first five-year term, with some of the UK's longest-running BIDs, having now been in operation for over 20 years and through five ballots. Evidence shows 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 BID now in its fifth term and Winsford Industrial Estate in Cheshire West, well into its 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.

Current BID Proposal

- 18 In 2023 Knutsford Town Council applied for and were successfully awarded UKSPF to fund a BID feasibility study. In 2024 they appointed The Mosaic Partnership to carry out that feasibility study on a potential BID in Knutsford. In undertaking this work the Mosaic Partnership undertook a business engagement exercise including online survey, one-to-one meetings, business workshop, and engagement with head offices of national businesses. 33 businesses responded providing feedback. This work concluded that there is potential to develop a BID in Knutsford generating circa £1M over 5 years to carry out visible and tangible improvements.
- 19 In March 2025 Knutsford Town Council considered the report flowing from the feasibility study and resolved to appoint Groundwork CLM to deliver the development stage of a BID proposal, noting the contract

would be structured to enable early termination in the event that it becomes apparent a BID vote would fail, and noting that it was planned that the cost of developing the BID proposal would be recovered in the event of a successful BID vote.

- 20 Subsequently, on 27th May 2025 Groundwork served notice on CEC confirming that the Knutsford 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 a formal BID proposal and a further 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 19 August 2025.
- 21 The first draft of the BID proposal was issued on 7 July 2025 and is appended to this report for information at Appendix 1. The BID Steering Group are inviting businesses in the area to comment on this proposal to inform its final form. It shows the draft BID area illustrated in figure 2 extending across Knutsford town centre but additionally including business premises at Tatton Park. The exact boundary of the BID will be refined as the BID proposal is developed further.



- 22 The final BID proposal will also confirm the levy rate, the non-domestic ratepayers for which the BID levy is to apply, and any reliefs that will be given. At the present time the BID proposer is testing a levy rate of 2% of Rateable Value, but this could alter before the BID proposal is finalised. Whilst exemptions may also still change, the current draft suggests that properties with a rateable value below £2,500 would be excluded from levy charges. Typically, some categories of businesses are also excluded such as those falling into the categories of education, emergency services, storage, workshop and warehousing. Again, these will be sense checked by the BID proposer through the BID development process and may change. The BID Steering Group anticipate that the BID could generate an investment of circa £1M over five years. The exact amount will however be dependent on the final proposal its exact geographical extent, the final levy rate and finalised exclusions, all of which will be confirmed in the final BID proposal before a ballot is held.
- 23 The levy raised via the BID would be used to fund interventions designed to support businesses in the BID by adding value to existing Council services. The BID proposal when received will also set out broadly how funds levied would be spent.
- 24 The first draft proposal confirms the Steering Group would like the ballot to be held in November 2025. If the BID ballot is successful, the ambition is for the BID to come into operation on 1 April 2026.

Implications for CEC

- 25 Despite the business-led approach to BID development and management, there are a series of critical roles that a local authority must 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

- 26 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.

Checks on the formal proposals.

- 27 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

- 28 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 asked to demonstrate its intention regarding services it provides within the BID area, through a Baseline Service Agreement. 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. This has already been done for the Wilmslow and Crewe BIDs and a similar format is anticipated to minimise workload for CEC officers.

Operating Agreement and Collection of Levy

- 29 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. Officers will 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

- 30 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 had at that time been a total of 822 BID ballots since 2004, of which 710 had been successful.
- 31 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

- 32 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

- 33 A BID should be managed through a Board or similar. The BID body 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 is successful at ballot and proceeds to commencement, whilst the Council will not be responsible for its management, 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

- 34 Although the proposed BID boundary may change up until the proposal is finalised, the proposed BID is anticipated to sit predominantly within Knutsford Ward but also incorporating Tatton Park in Mobberley Ward. These wards are represented by Councillors Peter Coan, Tony Dean and Stewart Gardiner (Knutsford Ward) and Councillor Hannah Moss (Mobberley Ward) . Councillors Peter Coan and Stewart Gardiner are also Knutsford Town Councillors and Knutsford Town Council has been instrumental in funding work to bring the BID proposal forward. All ward members will have been briefed on the emerging BID proposal by committee.
- 35 As set out at 18, initial engagement with businesses was undertaken in 2024 by the Mosaic Partnership. Further consultation is ongoing by Groundwork on the draft proposal which will inform the final form of the proposal to be put to ballot.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 36 If a Council as billing authority receives formal notification of an emerging BID proposal, they must respond to enable that BID proposal to be 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.
- 37 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.
- 38 This report seeks to inform members of the requirements and to ensure appropriate delegations to officers to enable the Regulations to be adhered to.
- 39 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 the services it can charge for, but it may choose to do so. It is therefore necessary for the Council to determine which costs it will seek to recover.
- 40 Having regard to current financial pressure, pressure on staff resources, precedent set by the Wilmslow and Crewe BID proposals and the potential for future precedents, it is recommended that the Council seek to charge for all services provided by the Council which the Regulations allow to be recharged. This is aligned to the way in which the costs associated with the Wilmslow and Crewe BID proposals were dealt with.

Other Options Considered

- 41 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 Knutsford</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 and Crewe BID proposals</p>	Complaints regarding inconsistency of approach

Implications and Comments

Monitoring Officer/Legal/Governance

- 42 The legal implications of the recommendations have largely been canvassed in the body of this report.
- 43 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.

- 44 The BID proposer must consult those affected by the proposed levy before submitting a request for a ballot. 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. This means that personal data has to be disclosed.
- 45 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. 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.
- 46 The Council is responsible for the collection and for managing the enforcement of BID levy charges. This will need a levy collection agreement with the BID body 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.
- 47 The Council should satisfy itself that the BID proposal does not conflict with any existing local authority policy, nor does it propose a disproportionate burden on a particular business by way of an unfair levy.
- 48 The billing authority is required to have a separate BID revenue account in respect of each BID for which it has responsibility.
- 49 The billing authority may require BID proposers or BID body to pay the costs of the ballot if less than 20% of those entitled to vote in the ballot voted in favour and either the proposals were not approved, or if the ballot is declared void. Such costs shall include any expenses properly incurred in relation to the exercise.
- 50 The billing authority may terminate BID arrangements where the BID body has insufficient finances to meet its liabilities for the relevant chargeable period or if the billing authority is unable, due to any cause beyond the control of the billing authority, to provide works or services necessary for the BID to continue. However, there are procedural steps

that must be taken prior to termination, such as providing sufficient notice and consulting with interested parties.

Section 151 Officer/Finance

- 51 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. There is scope within the BID Regulations for the Council to charge for various services provided to enable BID development, the BID ballot and levy collection, but not a requirement to do so.
- 52 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 and Crewe BID proposal, the Council sought to recover all costs allowable, and a similar approach is suggested as appropriate in this case.
- 53 Key costs to the Council are anticipated to be the cost of gathering information required by the BID proposer, the cost of holding the ballot (estimate £5,500), the cost of gearing up to collect a levy (estimate £6,250), and annual costs in collection/enforcement for the lifetime of the BID (estimate £6,000-£12,000 per annum). These costs are not currently budgeted for within the MTFs and are in the process of being estimated by the relevant services. Any cost calculations need to recognise the Council's overhead costs.
- 54 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 or guidance are explicit that charges can be made to recover costs, it is recommended that the BID proposer/BID Body be billed a reasonable charge to be determined by officers. It is anticipated that all costs associated with the collection of the BID Levy will be covered by charges, with no shortfall for the Council. Regarding 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.
- 55 In addition to the financial implications above, Cheshire East Council is the rate payer for hereditaments in the proposed BID area, and if the BID is successful it will have to pay the levy on those properties. It is provisionally estimated that the levies payable by CEC will amount to

circa [£5-6,000] per annum for the lifetime of the BID, based on current rateable values. These are not budgeted for within the MTF5.

- 56 If the ballot is successful, the feasibility work provided to the Council projects that the BID could raise in the order of £200,000 per annum in levy income for sole use by the Knutsford BID, although this will depend on the final BID proposal.

Human Resources

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

Risk Management

- 58 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.
- 59 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.
- 60 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.

Impact on other Committees

- 61 The decisions sought from Corporate Policy Committee are intended to ensure officers have clear authority to carry out all the procedures required to enable a BID proposal to be received and dealt with in accordance with the BID Regulations including the holding of a ballot. Whilst these decisions have no direct implications for other committees, assuming a ballot is held, this will trigger the need for a further decision as to the way the Council votes in that ballot as owner of hereditaments within the proposed BID area. For the past two previous BID proposals, the decision as to which way to vote in a ballot has been taken by Economy and Growth Committee given the decision is effectively being taken by the Council as the owner of land/building assets and also there being potential implications of a BID for the local economy. This later decision will have potential financial implications for the Council in that if

the ballot returns a 'yes' vote and a BID commences, the Council will become liable to pay the BID levies for its own hereditaments. This later decision (anticipated to be considered by Economy and Growth Committee in November) will have impact on general Council budgets and will therefore, likely to also be of interest to Finance Sub-Committee.

Policy

62 The Cheshire East Plan (2025-2029) seeks to enable prosperity for all in Cheshire East. It recognises that working with businesses is a key route to unlocking prosperity. A well-managed, successful BID could support Knutsford to thrive economically. Depending on the final form of the proposal a BID also has the potential to support several other commitments set out in the Cheshire East Plan. For example, a BID could seek to improve security in the town centre, aligned to the Cheshire East Plan in helping the local community to feel safe and secure, or a BID could provide opportunities for continuous learning. The extent of alignment with Council policies can however only be confirmed once the final BID proposal has been finalised. This matter will therefore be considered further after the final BID proposal has been received and reported in the follow-on report proposed to go to Economy and Growth Committee.

63 A BID proposal, subject to its final detail, could support the following aims and priorities of the Cheshire East Plan (2025-2029).

Unlocking prosperity for all	Improving health and wellbeing	An effective and enabling Council
<p>Creating new opportunities for business communities</p> <p>Supporting life- long learning associated with local businesses.</p> <p>Potential for improvements to active travel.</p>	<p>Everyone feels safe and secure.</p> <p>Communities build their capacity, with support to access information, guidance and funding</p>	<p>Innovative solutions are developed through a culture of collaboration</p>

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

64 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.

Other Implications

Rural Communities

- 65 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)

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

Public Health

- 67 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

- 68 The BID proposal has the potential to change on climate change dependant on the final form of the BID proposal. For example, if the BID supports business to thrive this could encourage more people in Knutsford to stay in their local area for leisure but conversely it could attract new visitors from outside the area, both scenarios affecting 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.

Consultation

Name of Consultee	Post held	Date sent	Date returned
<i>Statutory Officer (or deputy):</i>			
Ashley Hughes	S151 Officer	17/07/25	17/07/25
Janet Witkowski	Acting Monitoring Officer	17/07/25	17/07/25
<i>Legal and Finance</i>			
Aaron Lecroy	Senior Accountant	02/06/25 & 12/06/25 & 16/07/25	05/06/25 & 12/06/25
Nick Wrigley	Senior Lawyer	02/06/25 & 12/06/25 & 16/07/25	06/06/25 & 12/06/25
<i>Other Consultees: Executive Directors/Directors</i>			
Peter Skates	Director of Growth	02/06/25	06/06/25
Sal Khan	Director of Finance	12/06/25	

Access to Information	
Contact Officer:	Jo Wise Development & Regeneration Delivery Manager jo.wise@cheshireeast.gov.uk 07939 508547
Appendices:	Draft Knutsford BID Proposal (Issued 7 July 2025)
Background Papers:	N/A